DOCKETED	
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Project Title:	Gem Energy Storage Center
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Document Title:	Tribal Consultation Letters
Description:	Mailed on July 26, 2022
Filer:	Marichka Haws
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	7/27/2022 2:59:19 PM
Docketed Date:	7/27/2022

July 18, 2022

Jairo Avila, Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer
Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
1019 Second Street, Suite 1
San Fernando, CA 91340

Dear Jairo Avila:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, in accordance with the obligations pursuant to Public Resources Code, section 21080.3.1.

Background

The CEC has exclusive authority to certify, or license, all thermal power plants of 50 megawatts (MW) and greater and related facilities (that is, facilities dedicated to and essential to the operation of the power plant, such as an electric transmission line) proposed for construction and operation in California. The issuance of a certificate by the CEC is in lieu of any local or state permit and federal permit to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC's facility licensing process carefully examines the public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities. The CEC's licensing process has been certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency as a "certified regulatory program" under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, §§ 21000 et. seq; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251(j)). As a certified regulatory program, the CEC produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an environmental impact report.

Description

The Gem Energy Storage Center (GESC or project) would be a nominal 500-MW, 4,000 MW-hour (MWh), advanced compressed air energy storage (A-

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CEC staff would like to consult with you to better understand Native American concerns regarding this project. Please respond to this letter in writing within 30 days if the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians would like to request consultation.

Additionally, over the coming months the CEC will hold public meetings on the project to better understand impacts or concerns that may arise. These meetings will provide the public; local, state, and federal agencies; and tribal governments, the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The CEC will issue notices for these meetings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

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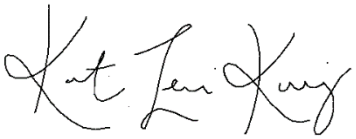
Should you request, CEC staff will arrange for a separate consultation meeting to discuss issues that you may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

CEC staff welcomes your comments and questions. Please do not hesitate to contact Gabriel Roark, Assistant Tribal Liaison, at (916) 237-2544 or by email at Gabriel.Roark@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Katrina Leni-Konig
California Energy Commission Tribal Liaison and Deputy Public Advisor

Enclosure: **Figure 1-1**: Existing Site Conditions, **Figure 1-2**: Architectural Rendering on Gem Storage Center, **Figure 1-3:** Project Area Map, **Figure 1-4:** Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

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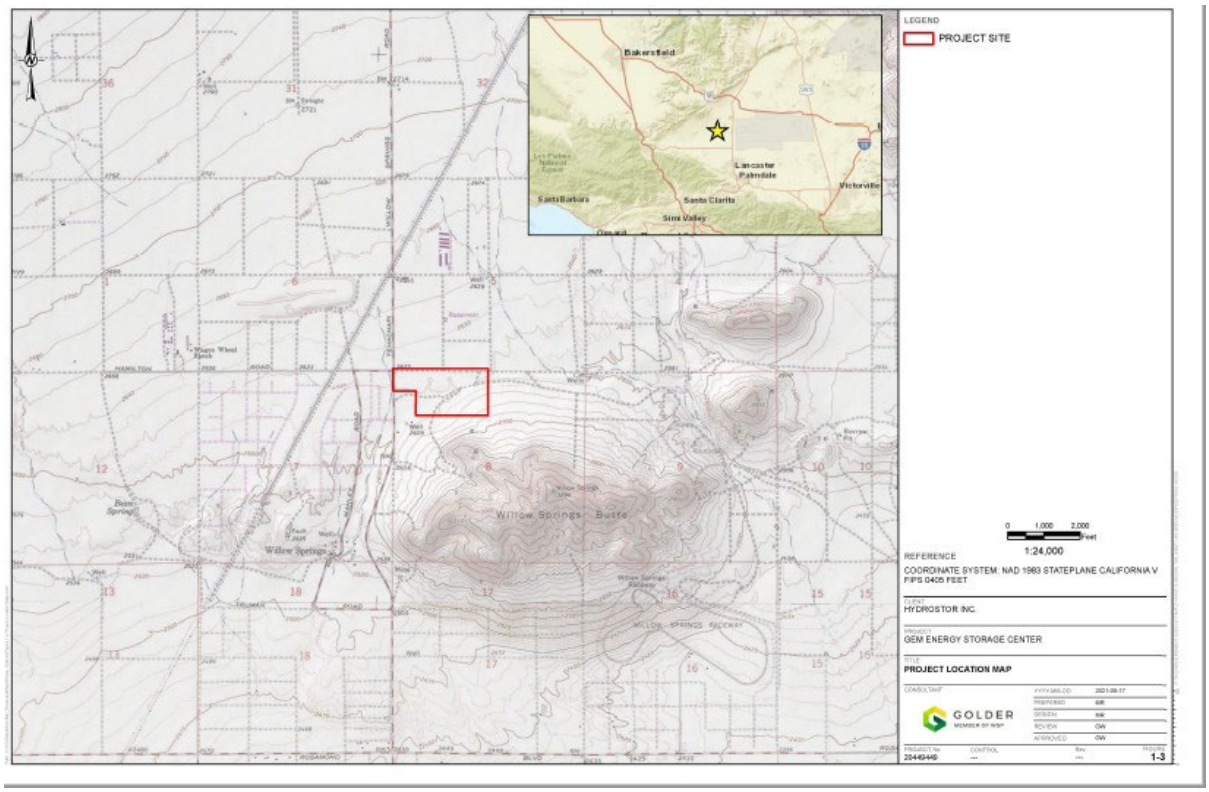

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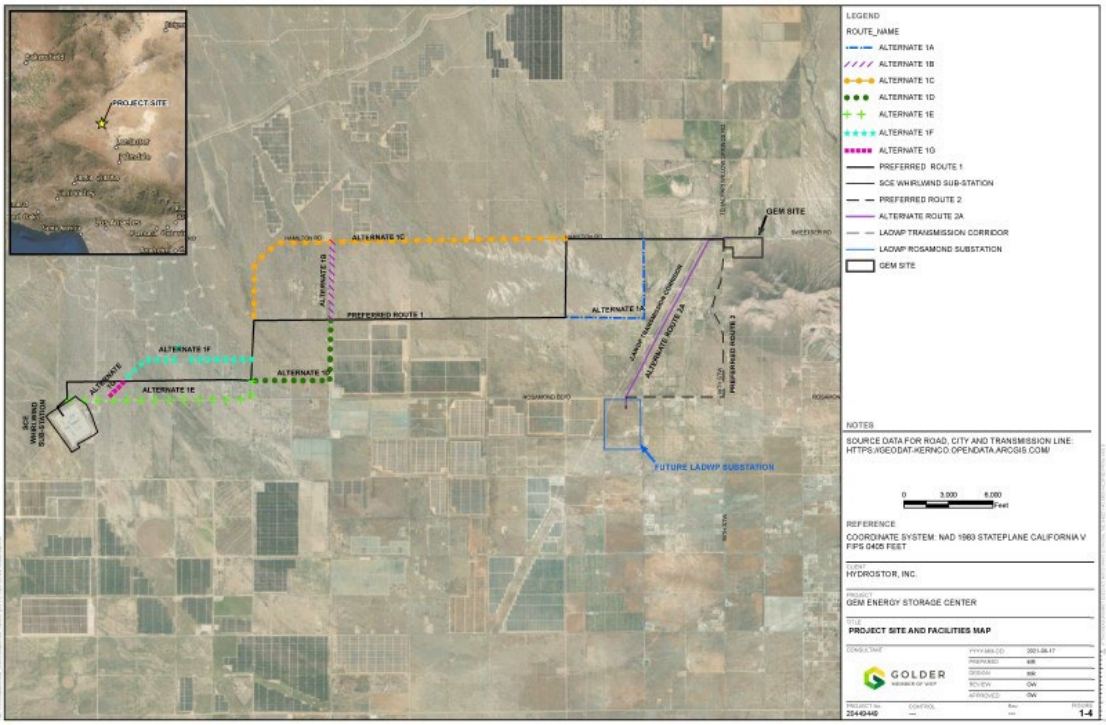

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman
Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366

Dear Manfred:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, in accordance with the obligations pursuant to Public Resources Code, section 21080.3.1.

Background

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CEC staff would like to consult with you to better understand Native American concerns regarding this project. Please respond to this letter in writing within 30 days if Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation would like to request consultation.

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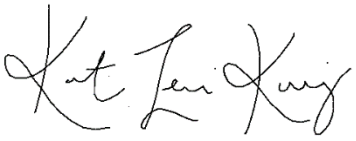

Katrina Leni-Konig
California Energy Commission Tribal Liaison and Deputy Public Advisor

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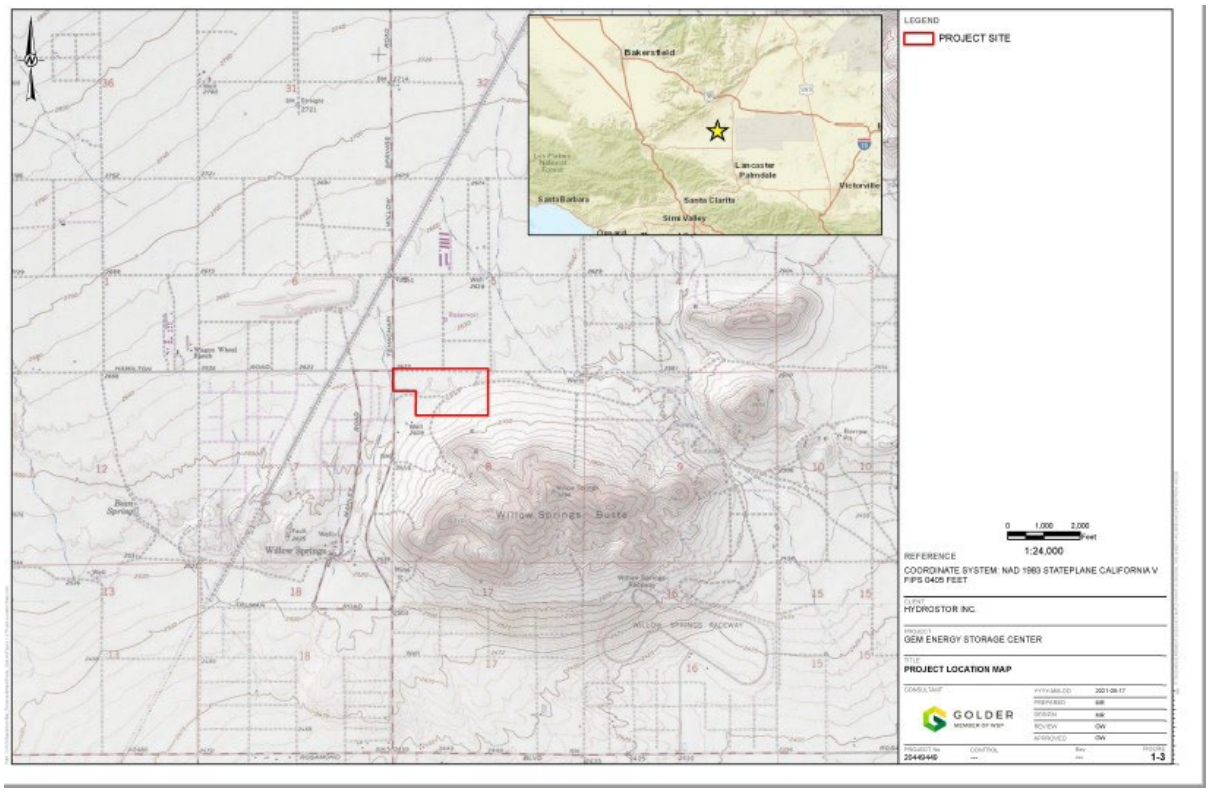

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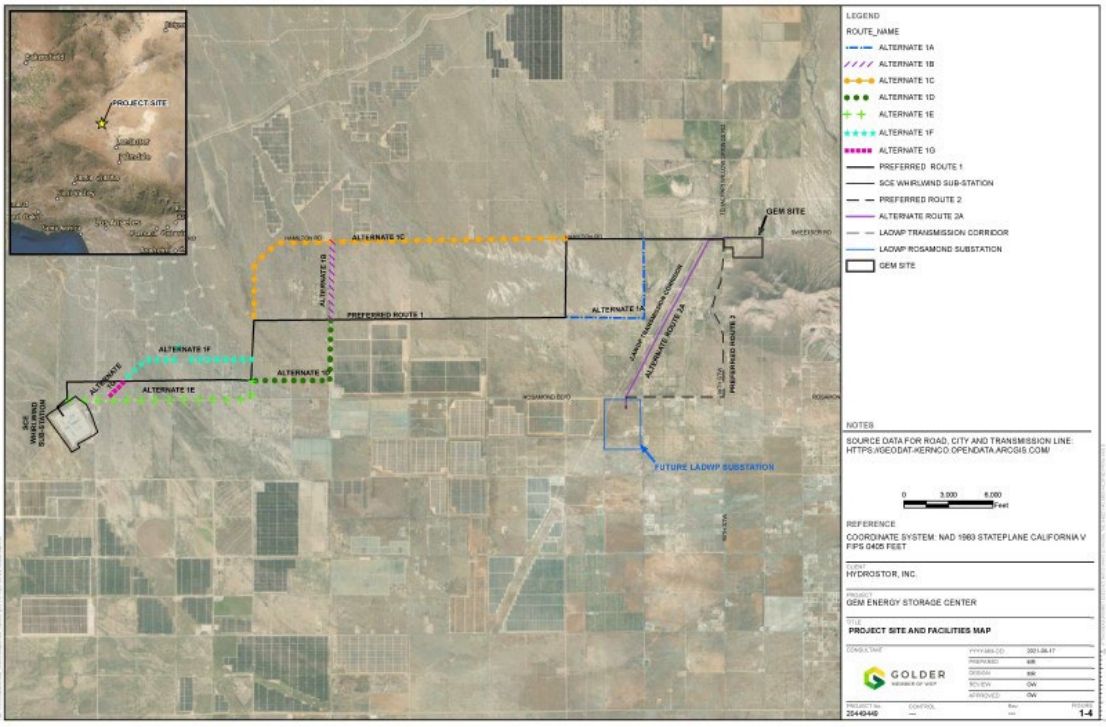

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer
Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366

Dear Jill:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, in accordance with the obligations pursuant to Public Resources Code, section 21080.3.1.

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CEC staff would like to consult with you to better understand Native American concerns regarding this project. Please respond to this letter in writing within 30 days if Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation would like to request consultation.

Additionally, over the coming months the CEC will hold public meetings on the project to better understand impacts or concerns that may arise. These meetings will provide the public; local, state, and federal agencies; and tribal governments, the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The CEC will issue notices for these meetings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

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Should you request, CEC staff will arrange for a separate consultation meeting to discuss issues that you may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

CEC staff welcomes your comments and questions. Please do not hesitate to contact Gabriel Roark, Assistant Tribal Liaison, at (916) 237-2544 or by email at Gabriel.Roark@energy.ca.gov.

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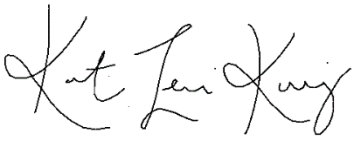

Katrina Leni-Konig
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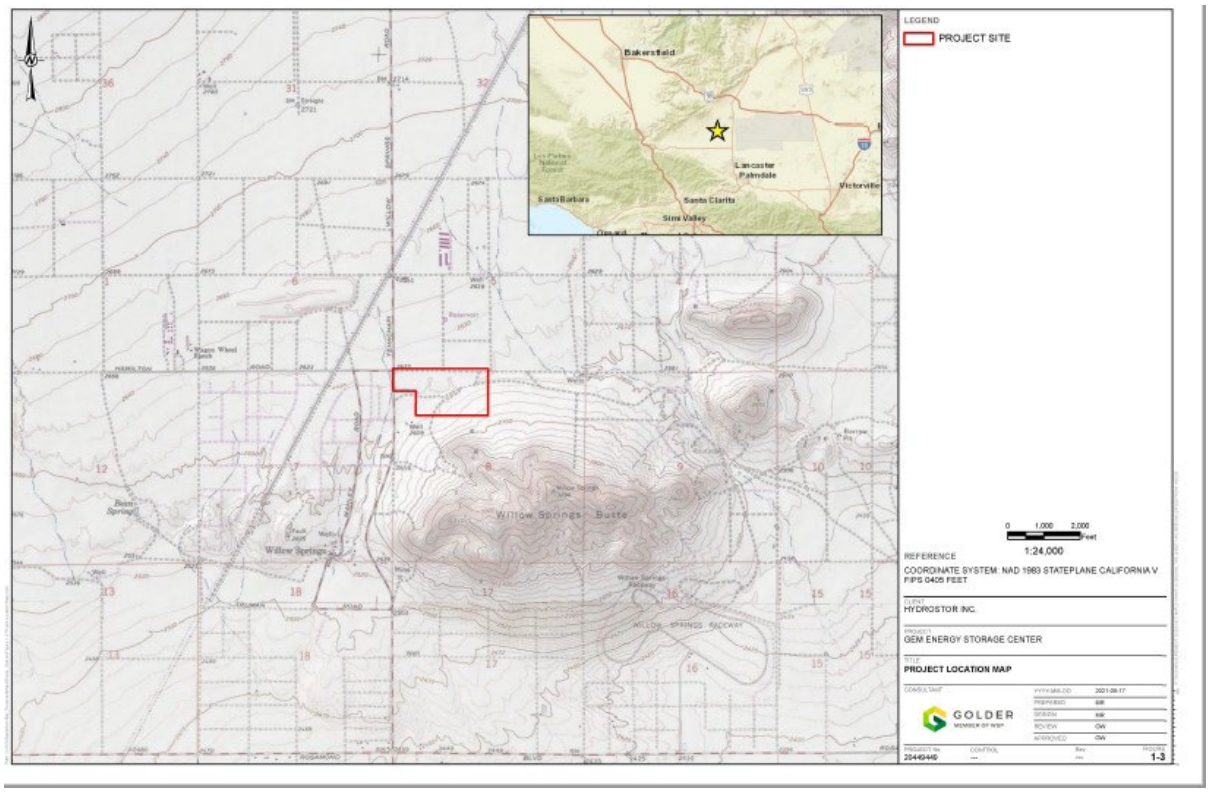

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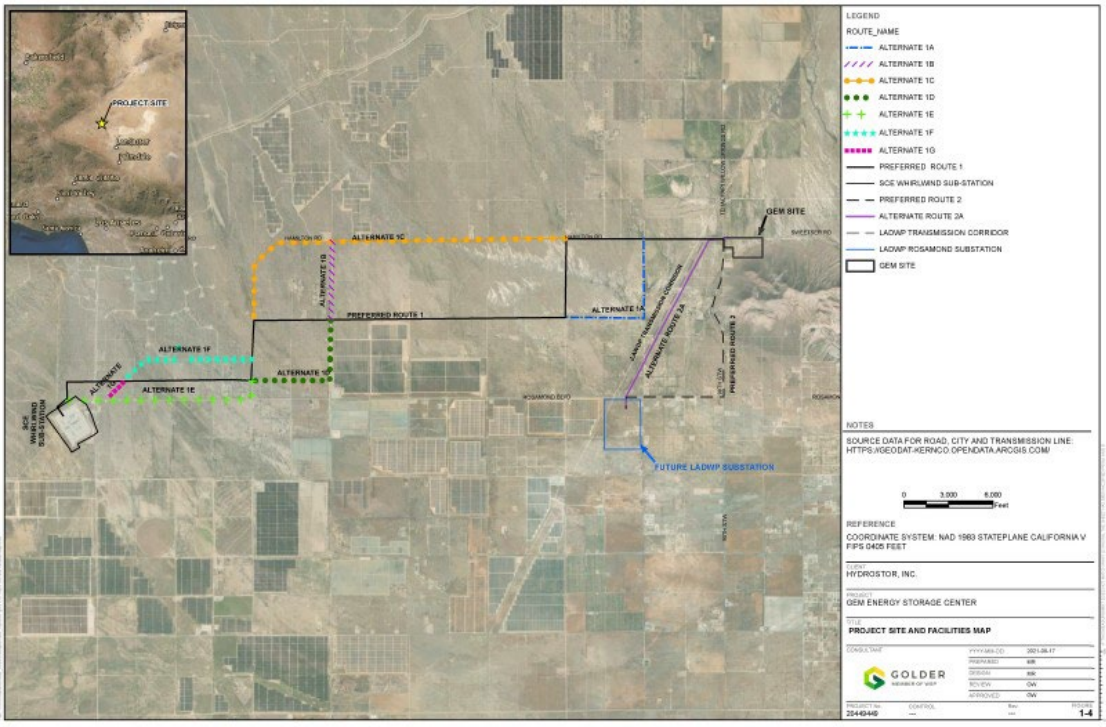

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Jessica Mauck, Director of Cultural Resources
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA 92346

Dear Director Mauck:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites San Manuel Band of Mission Indians to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, in accordance with the obligations pursuant to Public Resources Code, section 21080.3.1.

Background

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CEC staff would like to consult with you to better understand Native American concerns regarding this project. Please respond to this letter in writing within 30 days if San Manuel Band of Mission Indians would like to request consultation.

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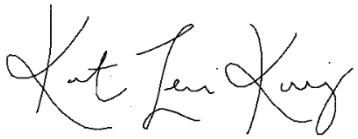

Katrina Leni-Konig
California Energy Commission Tribal Liaison and Deputy Public Advisor

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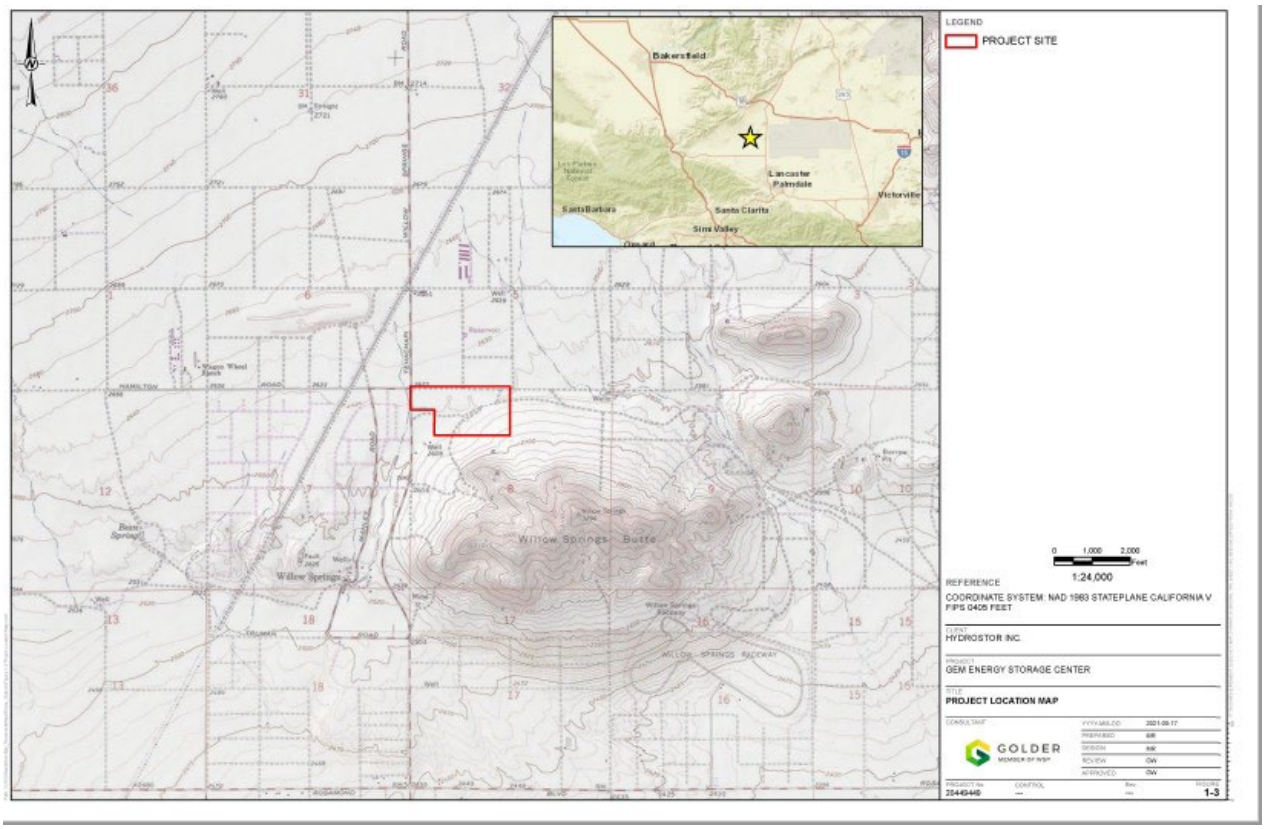

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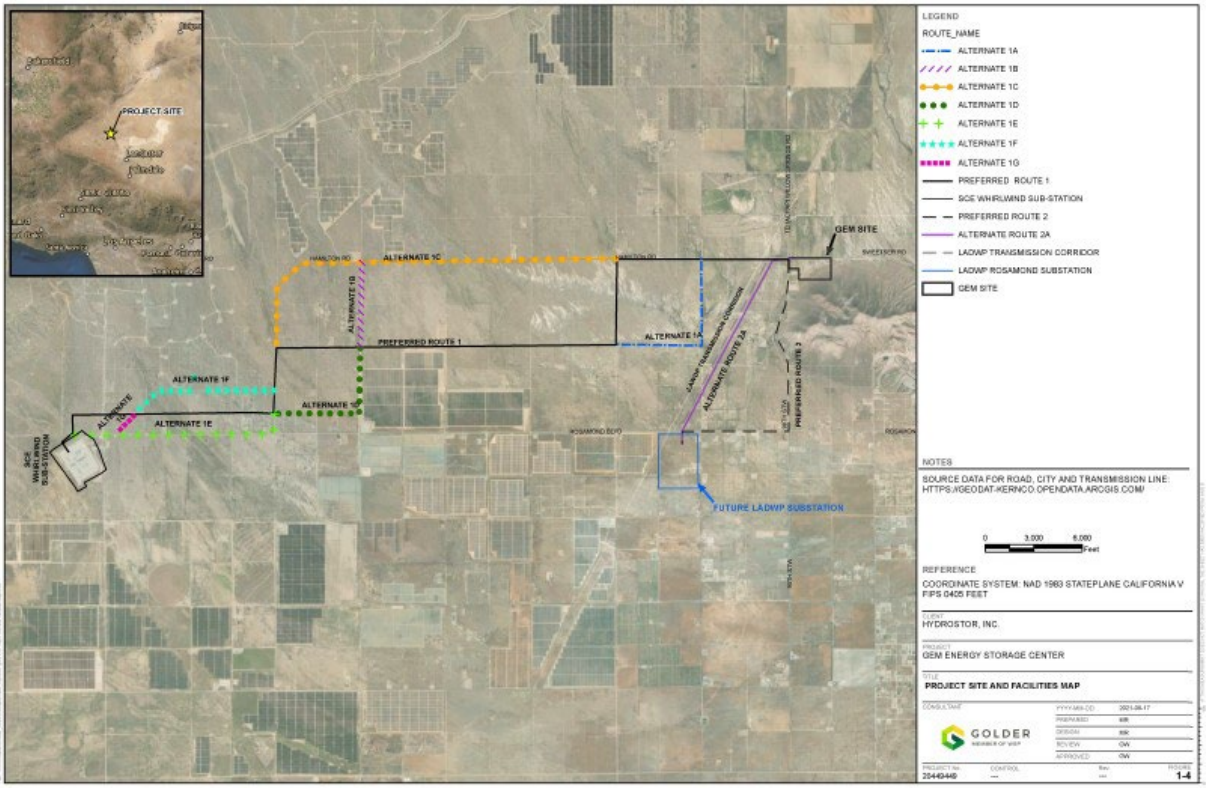

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Octavio Escobedo, Chairperson
Tejon Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 640
Arvin, CA 93203

Honorable Chairperson Escobedo:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites the Tejon Indian Tribe to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, in accordance with the obligations pursuant to Public Resources Code, section 21080.3.1.

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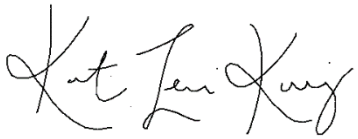

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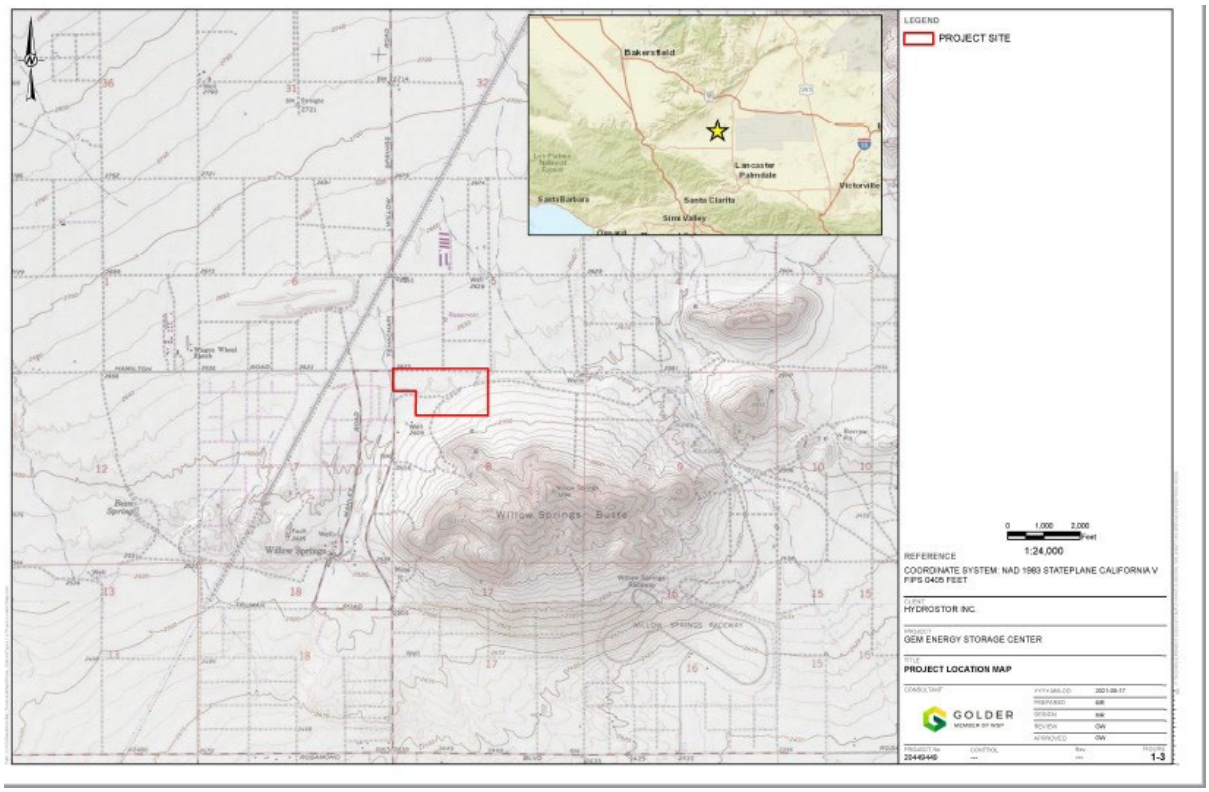

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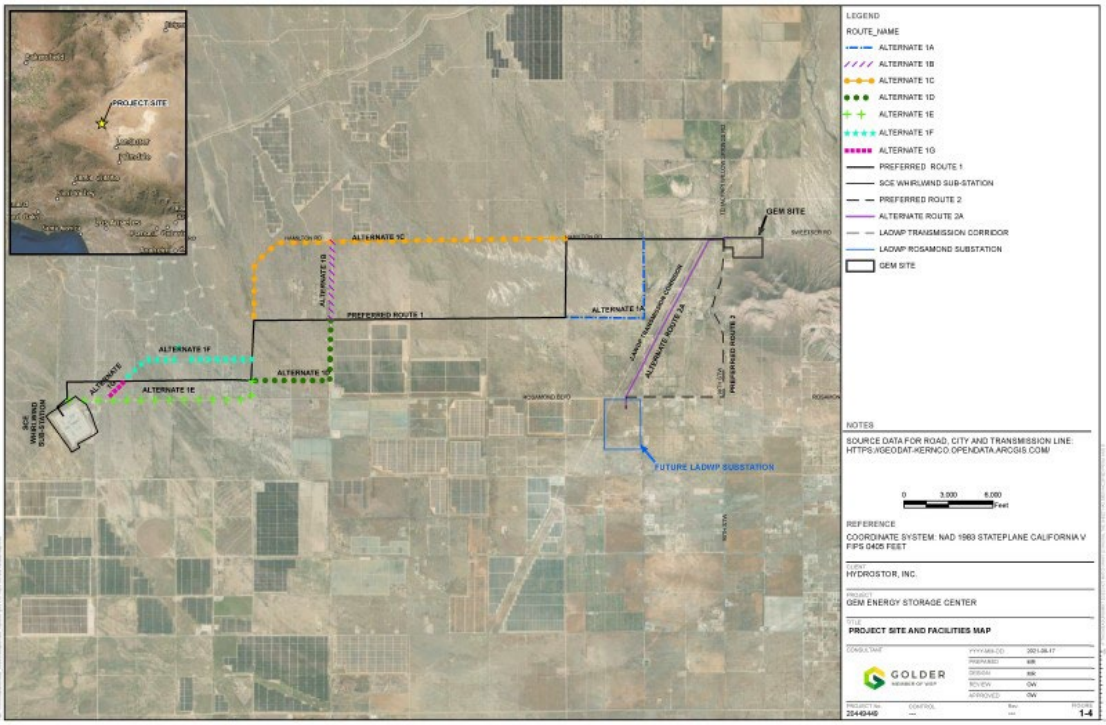

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Colin Rambo
Tejon Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 640
Arvin, CA 93203

Dear Colin:

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CEC staff would like to consult with you to better understand Native American concerns regarding this project. Please respond to this letter in writing within 30 days if the Tejon Indian Tribe would like to request consultation.

Additionally, over the coming months the CEC will hold public meetings on the project to better understand impacts or concerns that may arise. These meetings will provide the public; local, state, and federal agencies; and tribal governments, the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The CEC will issue notices for these meetings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

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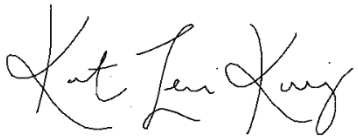
Should you request, CEC staff will arrange for a separate consultation meeting to discuss issues that you may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

CEC staff welcomes your comments and questions. Please do not hesitate to contact Gabriel Roark, Assistant Tribal Liaison, at (916) 237-2544 or by email at Gabriel.Roark@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Katrina Leni-Konig
California Energy Commission Tribal Liaison and Deputy Public Advisor

Enclosure: **Figure 1-1**: Existing Site Conditions, **Figure 1-2**: Architectural Rendering on Gem Storage Center, **Figure 1-3:** Project Area Map, **Figure 1-4:** Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

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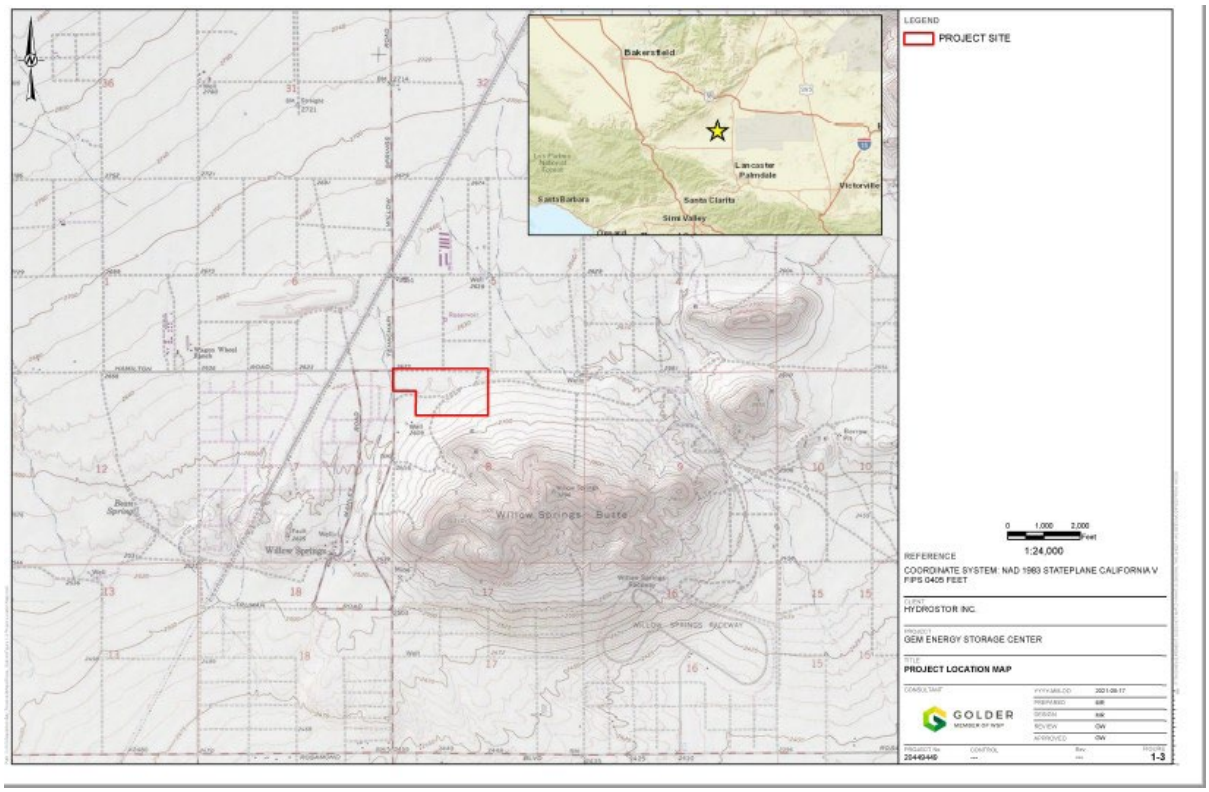

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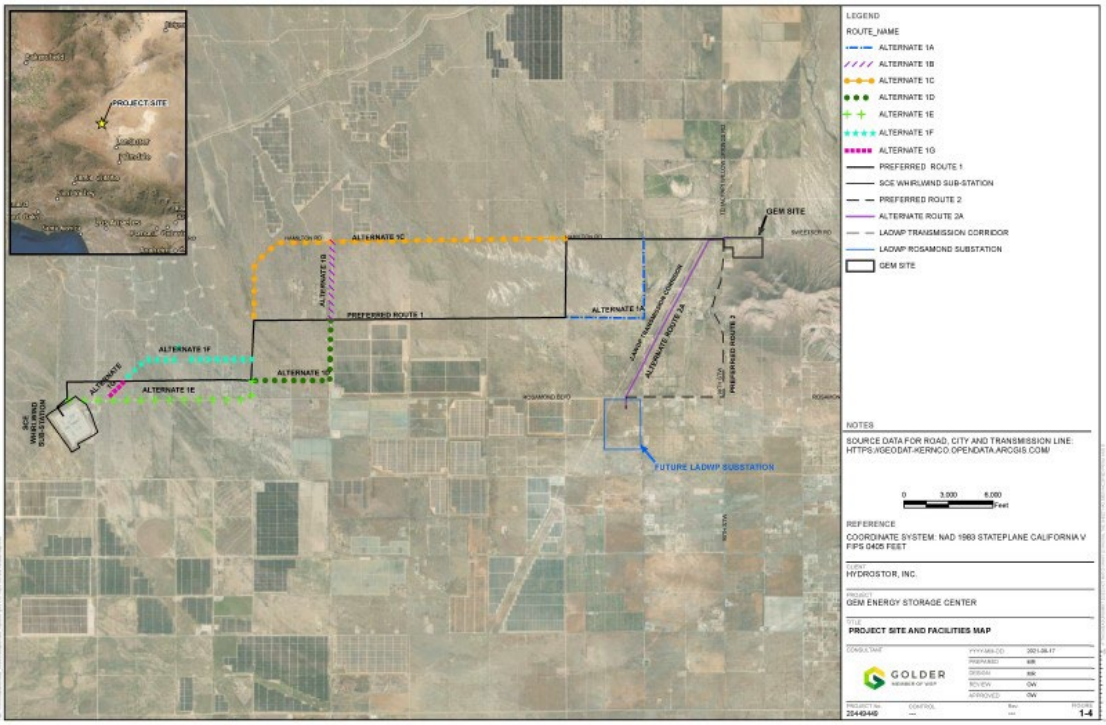

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Brandy Kendricks,
Kern Valley Indian Community
30741 Foxridge Court
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Dear Brandy Kendricks:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites Kern Valley Indian Community to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, pursuant to our tribal consultation policy.

Background

The CEC has exclusive authority to certify, or license, all thermal power plants of 50 megawatts (MW) and greater and related facilities (that is, facilities dedicated to and essential to the operation of the power plant, such as an electric transmission line) proposed for construction and operation in California. The issuance of a certificate by the CEC is in lieu of any local or state permit and federal permit to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC's facility licensing process carefully examines the public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities. The CEC's licensing process has been certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency as a "certified regulatory program" under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, §§ 21000 et. seq; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251(j)). As a certified regulatory program, the CEC produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an environmental impact report.

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CEC staff would like to consult with you to better understand Native American concerns regarding this project. Please respond to this letter in writing within 30 days if Kern Valley Indian Community would like to request consultation.

Additionally, over the coming months the CEC will hold public meetings on the project to better understand impacts or concerns that may arise. These meetings will provide the public; local, state, and federal agencies; and tribal governments, the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The CEC will issue notices for these meetings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

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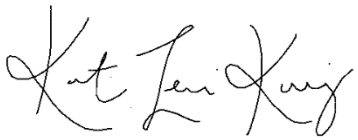

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California Energy Commission Tribal Liaison and Deputy Public Advisor

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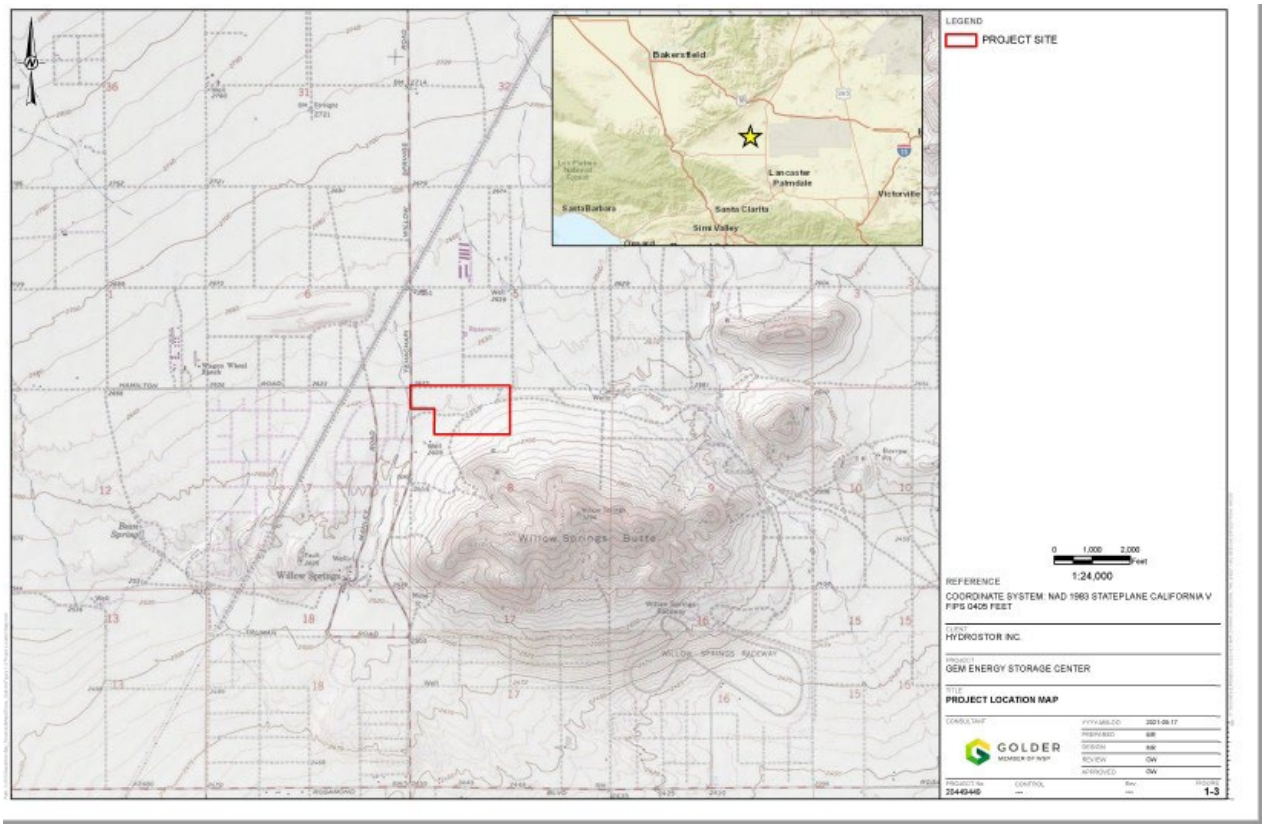

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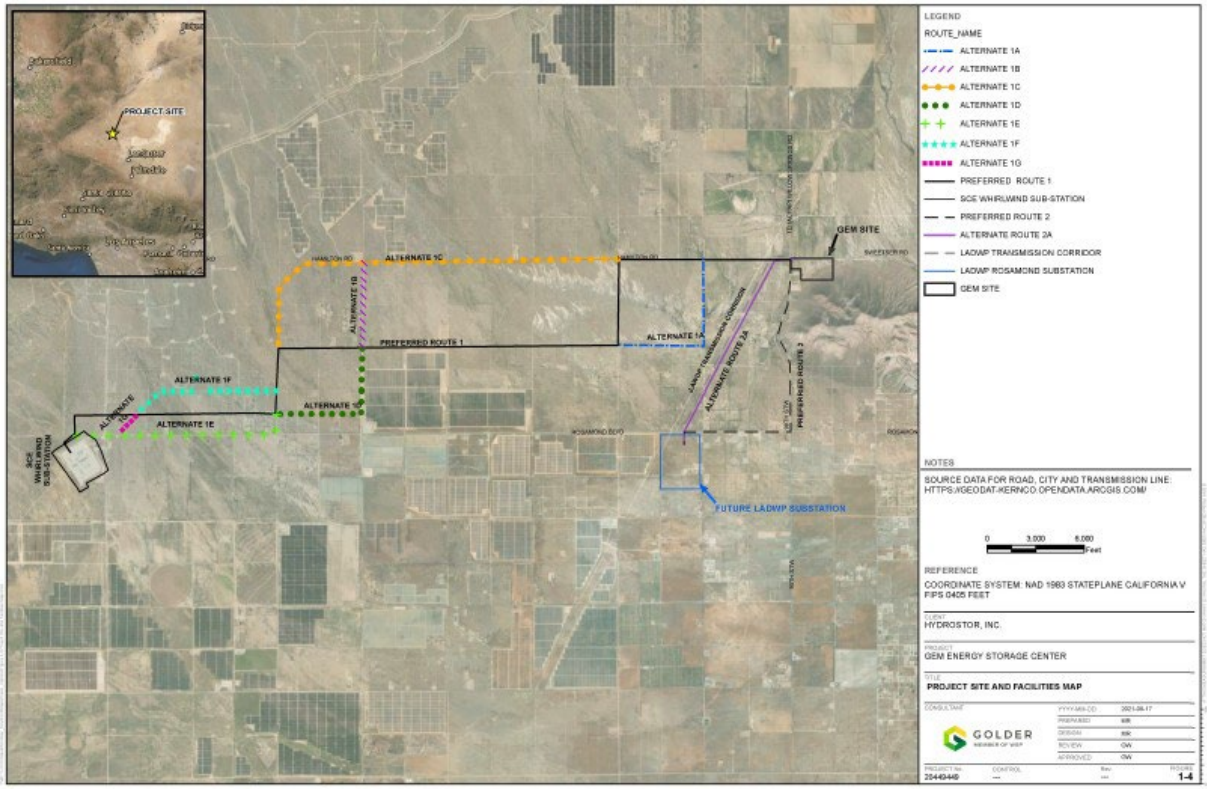

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Danelle Gutierrez, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
P.O. Box 700
Big Pine, CA 93513

Dear Danelle Gutierrez:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, pursuant to our tribal consultation policy.

Background

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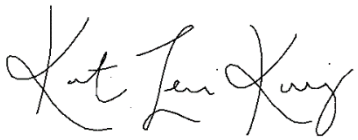

Katrina Leni-Konig
California Energy Commission Tribal Liaison and Deputy Public Advisor

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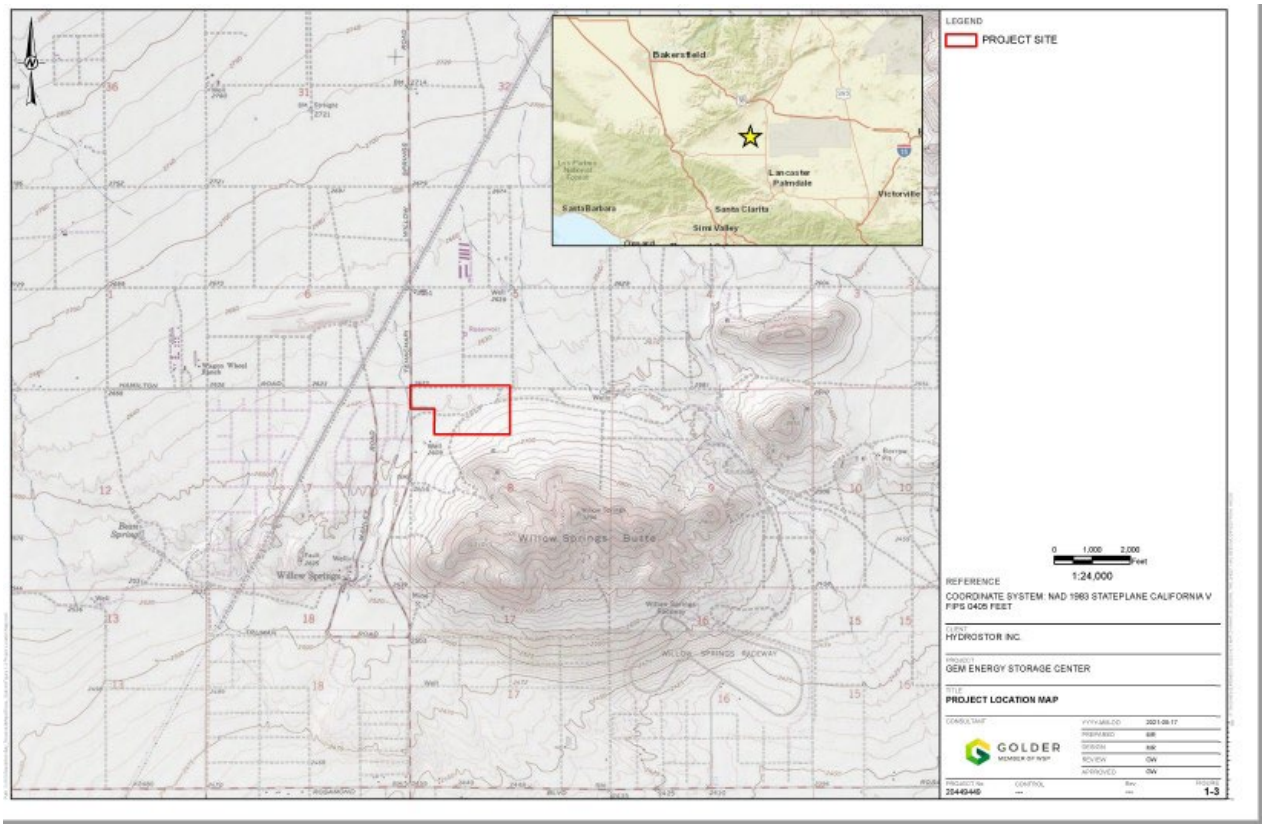

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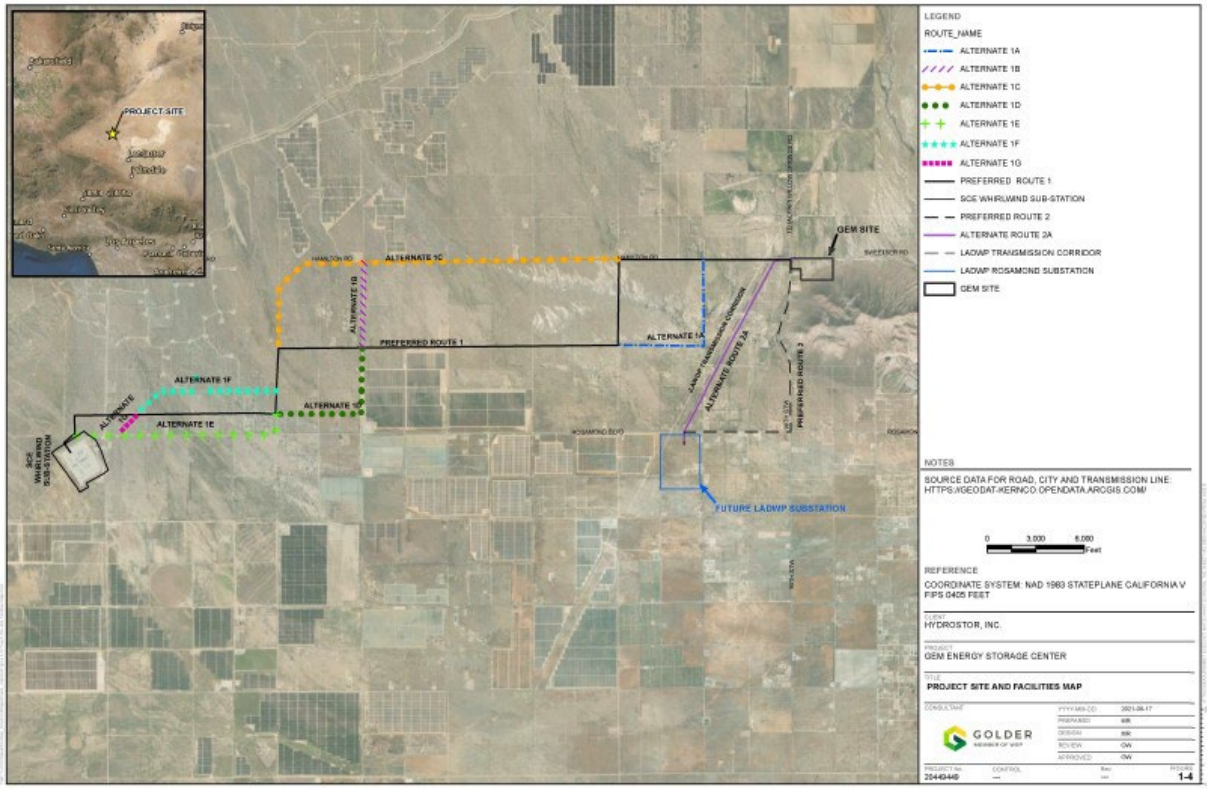

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Delia Dominguez, Chairperson
Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians
115 Radio Street
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Dear Honorable Delia Dominguez:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, pursuant to our tribal consultation policy.

Background

The CEC has exclusive authority to certify, or license, all thermal power plants of 50 megawatts (MW) and greater and related facilities (that is, facilities dedicated to and essential to the operation of the power plant, such as an electric transmission line) proposed for construction and operation in California. The issuance of a certificate by the CEC is in lieu of any local or state permit and federal permit to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC's facility licensing process carefully examines the public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities. The CEC's licensing process has been certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency as a "certified regulatory program" under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, §§ 21000 et. seq; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251(j)). As a certified regulatory program, the CEC produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an environmental impact report.

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CEC staff would like to consult with you to better understand Native American concerns regarding this project. Please respond to this letter in writing within 30 days if Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians would like to request consultation.

Additionally, over the coming months the CEC will hold public meetings on the project to better understand impacts or concerns that may arise. These meetings will provide the public; local, state, and federal agencies; and tribal governments, the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The CEC will issue notices for these meetings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

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Should you request, CEC staff will arrange for a separate consultation meeting to discuss issues that you may wish to hold in confidence from the public.

CEC staff welcomes your comments and questions. Please do not hesitate to contact Gabriel Roark, Assistant Tribal Liaison, at (916) 237-2544 or by email at Gabriel.Roark@energy.ca.gov.

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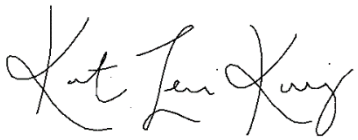

Katrina Leni-Konig
California Energy Commission Tribal Liaison and Deputy Public Advisor

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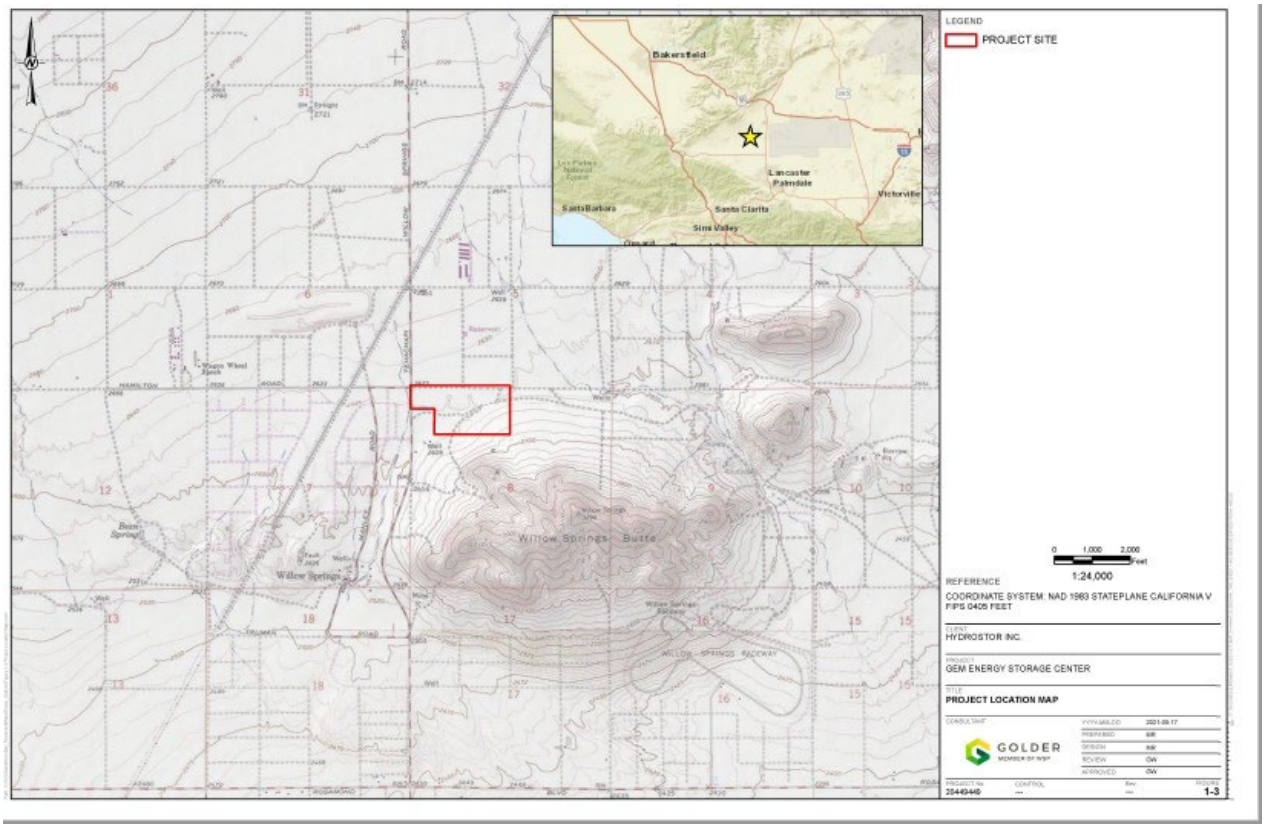

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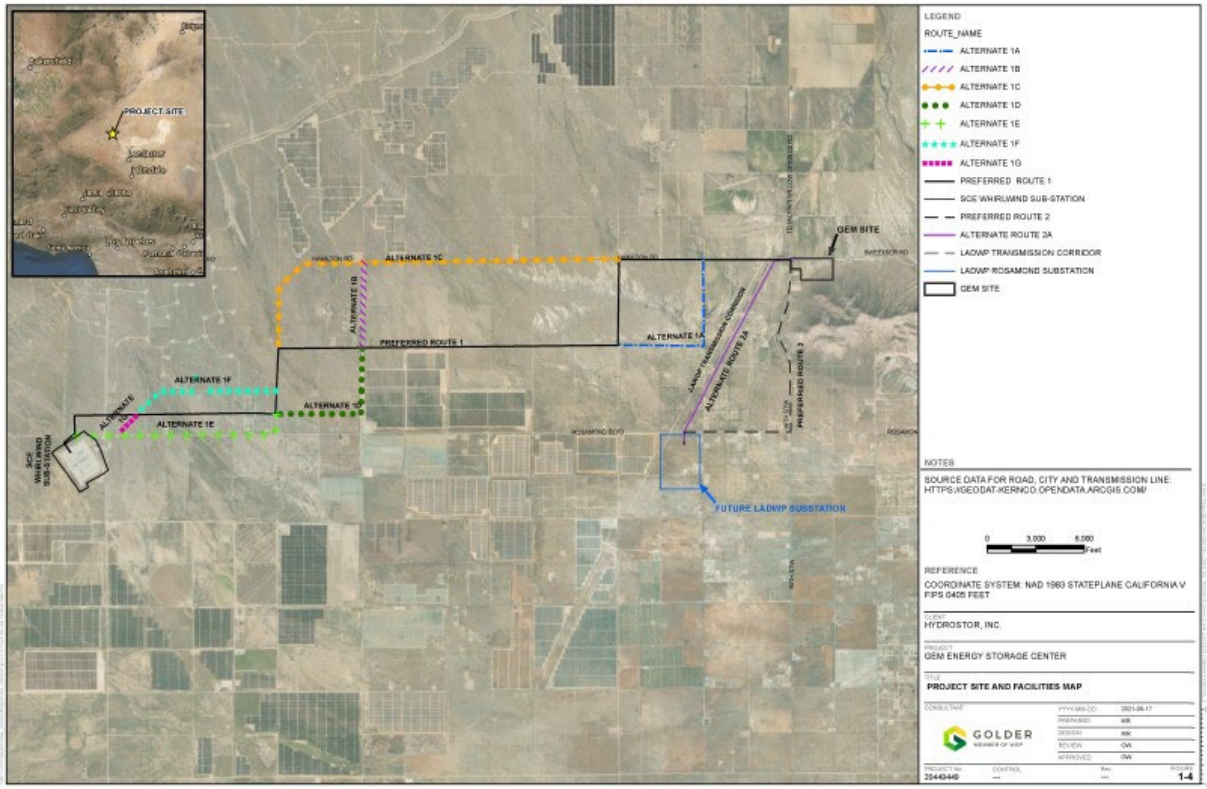

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Donna Yocum, Chairperson
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 221838
Newhall, CA 91322

Dear Honorable Donna Yocum:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites San Fernando Band of Mission Indians to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, pursuant to our tribal consultation policy.

Background

The CEC has exclusive authority to certify, or license, all thermal power plants of 50 megawatts (MW) and greater and related facilities (that is, facilities dedicated to and essential to the operation of the power plant, such as an electric transmission line) proposed for construction and operation in California. The issuance of a certificate by the CEC is in lieu of any local or state permit and federal permit to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC's facility licensing process carefully examines the public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities. The CEC's licensing process has been certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency as a "certified regulatory program" under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, §§ 21000 et. seq; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251(j)). As a certified regulatory program, the CEC produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an environmental impact report.

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CEC staff would like to consult with you to better understand Native American concerns regarding this project. Please respond to this letter in writing within 30 days if San Fernando Band of Mission Indians would like to request consultation.

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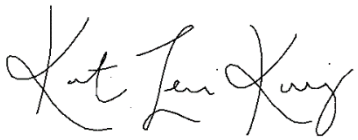

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California Energy Commission Tribal Liaison and Deputy Public Advisor

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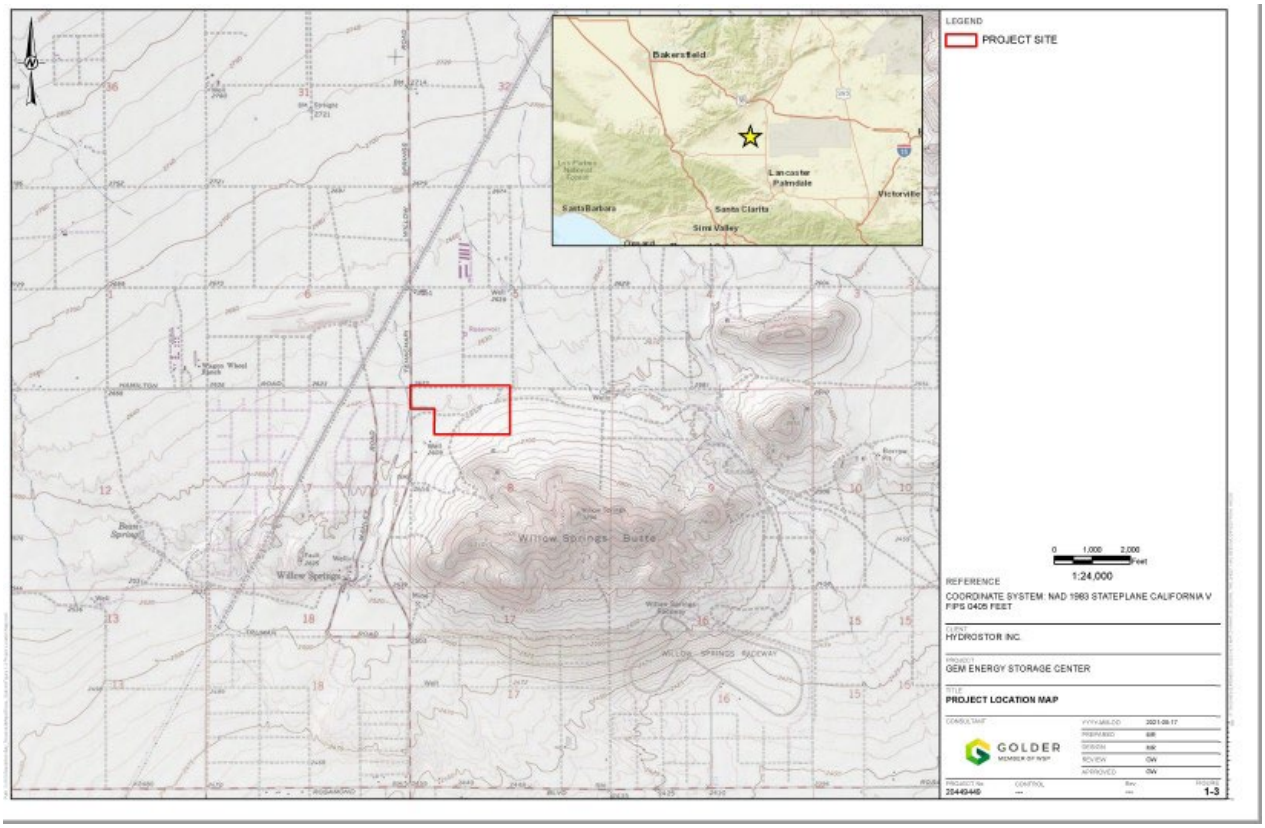

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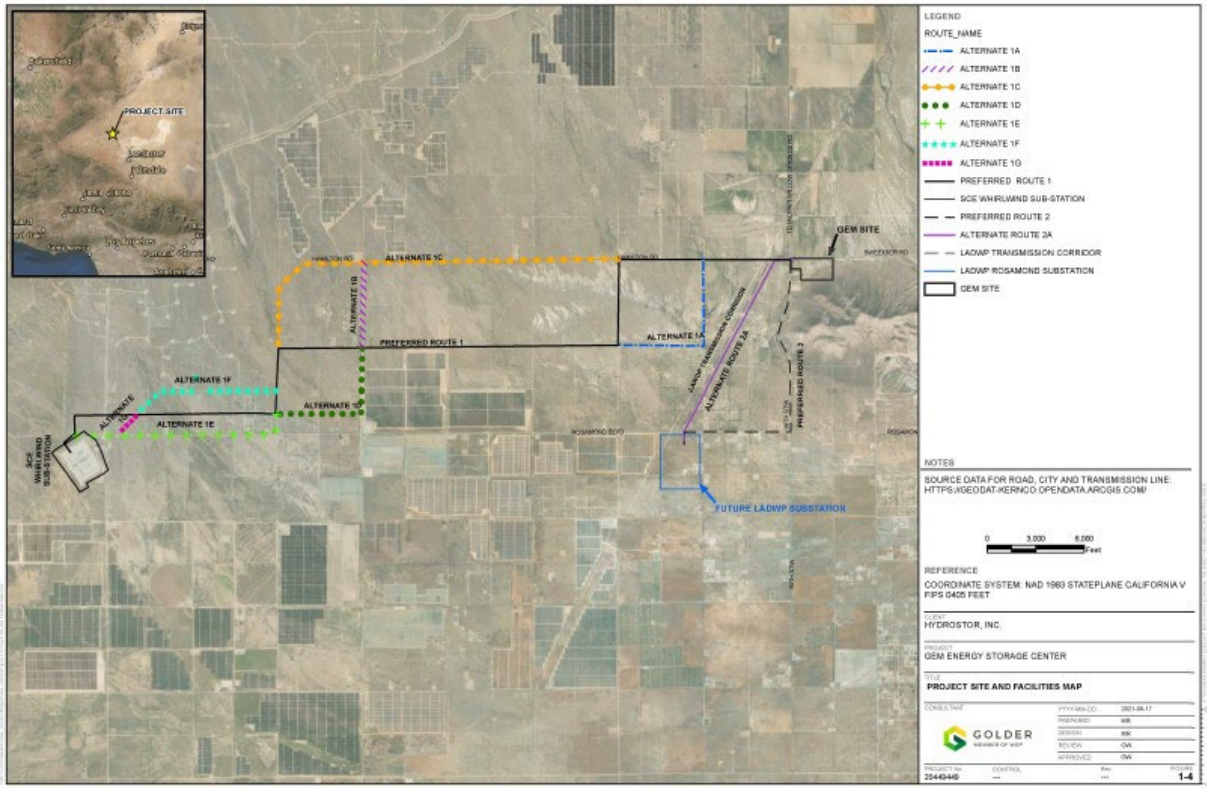

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July 18, 2022

James Rambeau, Chairperson
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
P. O. Box 700
Big Pine, CA 93513

Dear Honorable James Rambeau:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley to consult regarding this project.

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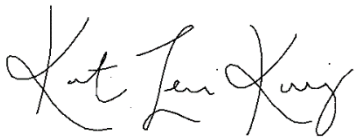

Katrina Leni-Konig
California Energy Commission Tribal Liaison and Deputy Public Advisor

Enclosure: **Figure 1-1**: Existing Site Conditions, **Figure 1-2**: Architectural Rendering on Gem Storage Center, **Figure 1-3:** Project Area Map, **Figure 1-4:** Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

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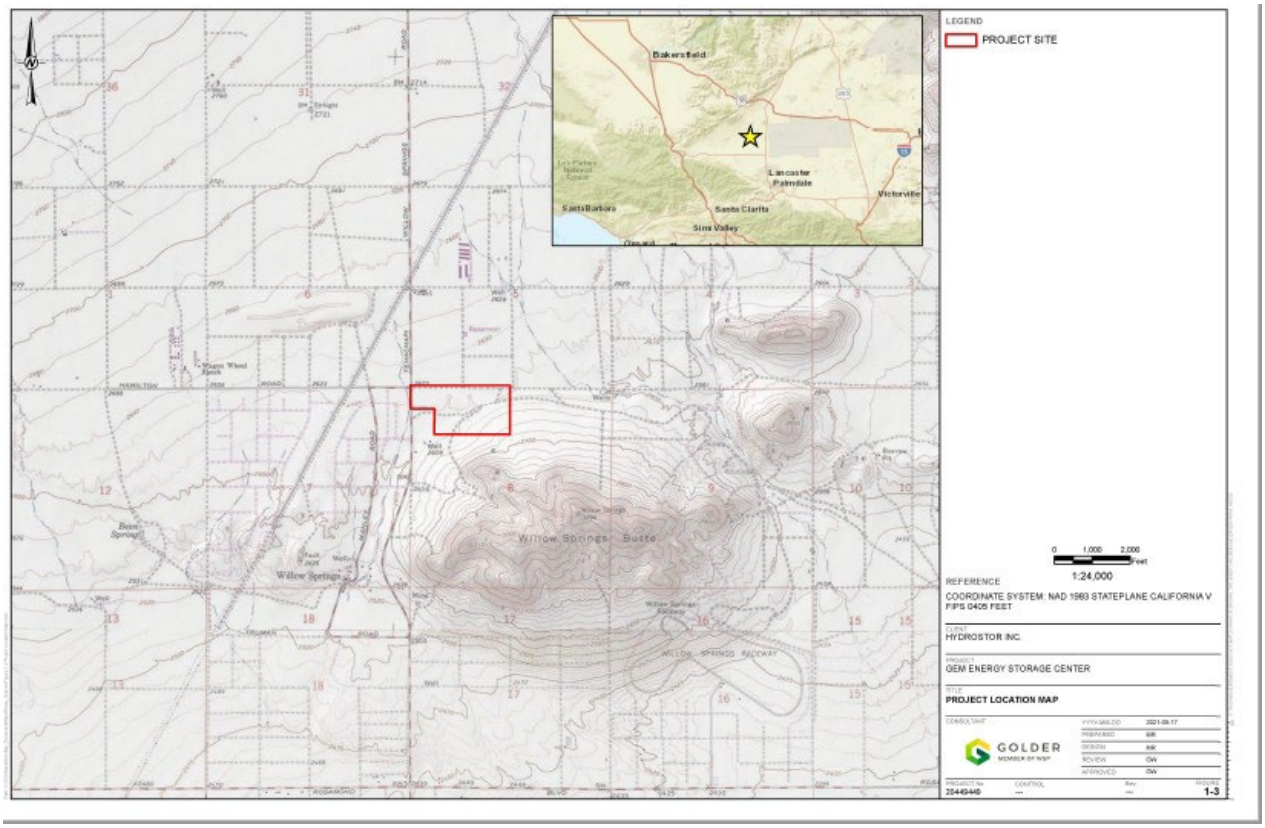

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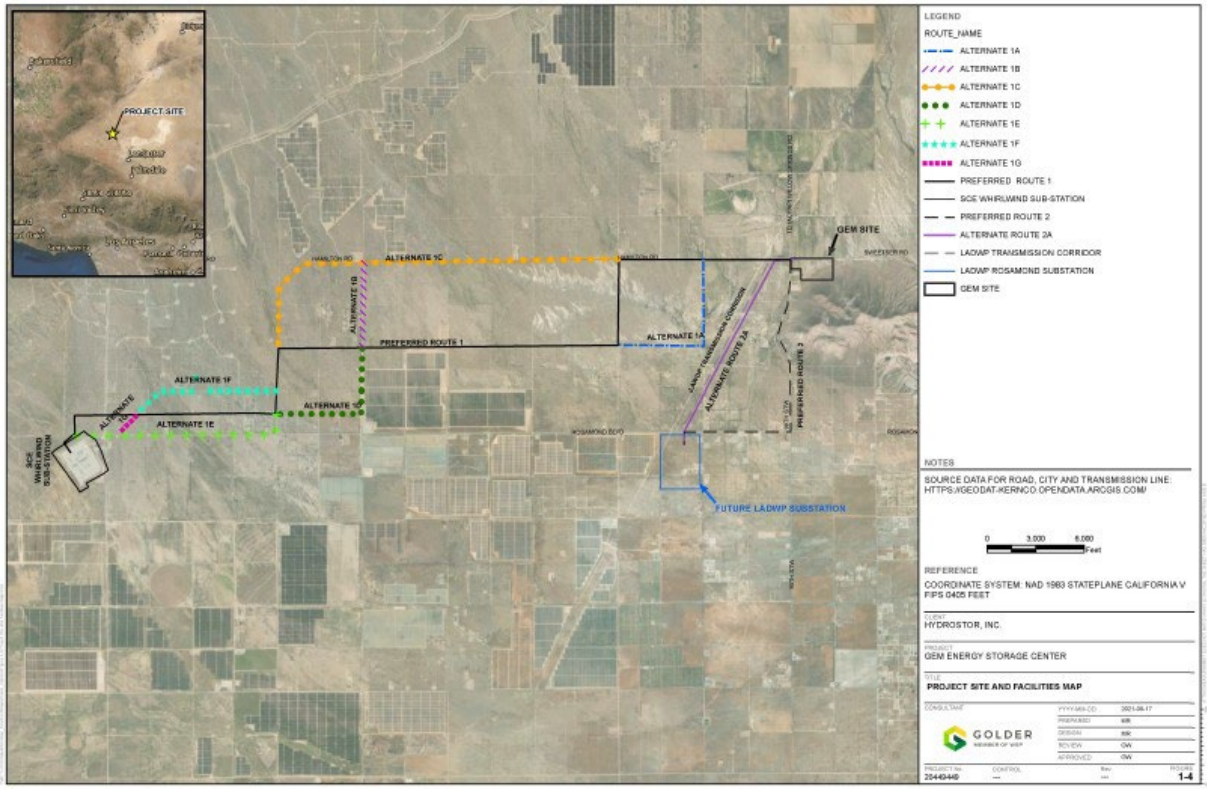

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Joey Garfield, Tribal Archaeologist
Tule River Indian Tribe
P. O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

Dear Joey Garfield:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites Tule River Indian Tribe to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, pursuant to our tribal consultation policy.

Background

The CEC has exclusive authority to certify, or license, all thermal power plants of 50 megawatts (MW) and greater and related facilities (that is, facilities dedicated to and essential to the operation of the power plant, such as an electric transmission line) proposed for construction and operation in California. The issuance of a certificate by the CEC is in lieu of any local or state permit and federal permit to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC's facility licensing process carefully examines the public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities. The CEC's licensing process has been certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency as a "certified regulatory program" under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, §§ 21000 et. seq; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251(j)). As a certified regulatory program, the CEC produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an environmental impact report.

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CEC staff would like to consult with you to better understand Native American concerns regarding this project. Please respond to this letter in writing within 30 days if Tule River Indian Tribe would like to request consultation.

Additionally, over the coming months the CEC will hold public meetings on the project to better understand impacts or concerns that may arise. These meetings will provide the public; local, state, and federal agencies; and tribal governments, the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The CEC will issue notices for these meetings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

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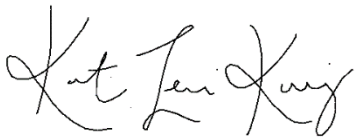

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California Energy Commission Tribal Liaison and Deputy Public Advisor

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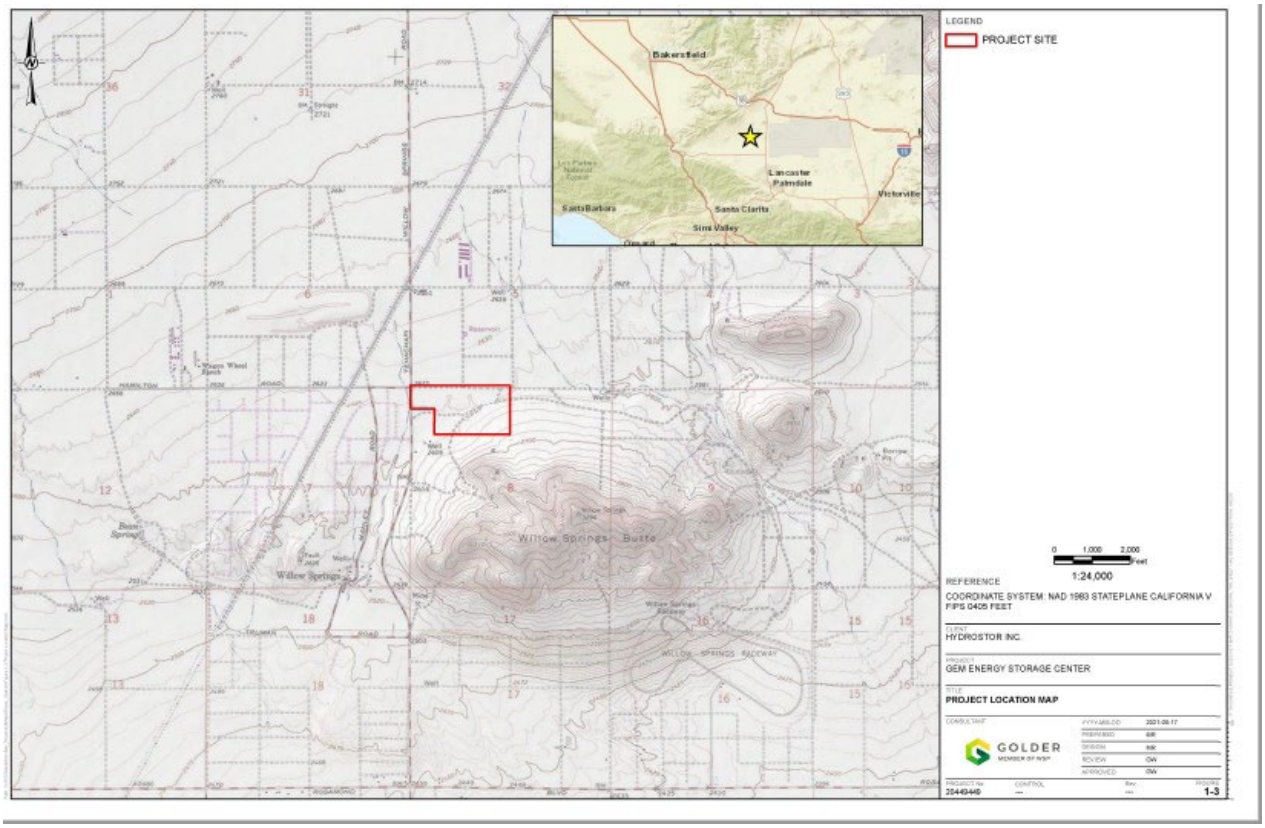

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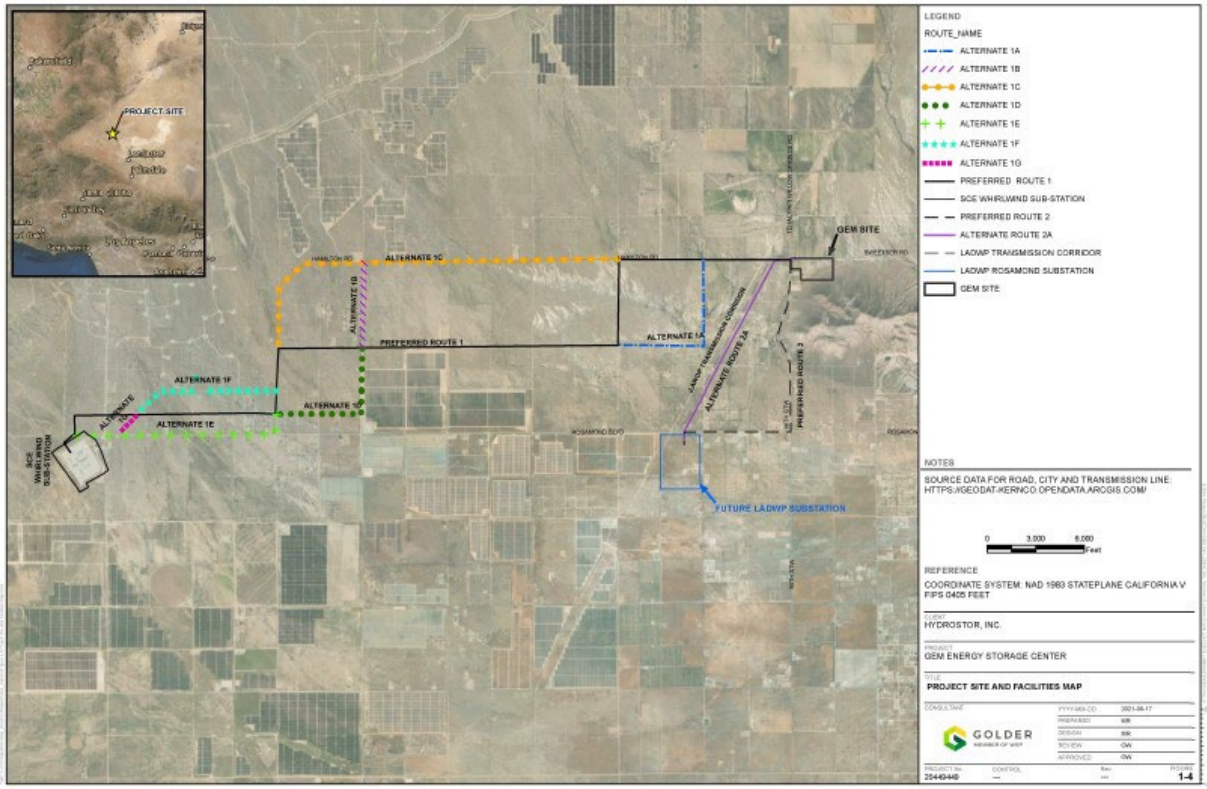

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Julie Turner, Secretary
Kern Valley Indian Community
P.O. Box 1010
Lake Isabella, CA 93240

Dear Julie Turner:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites Kern Valley Indian Community to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, pursuant to our tribal consultation policy.

Background

The CEC has exclusive authority to certify, or license, all thermal power plants of 50 megawatts (MW) and greater and related facilities (that is, facilities dedicated to and essential to the operation of the power plant, such as an electric transmission line) proposed for construction and operation in California. The issuance of a certificate by the CEC is in lieu of any local or state permit and federal permit to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC's facility licensing process carefully examines the public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities. The CEC's licensing process has been certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency as a "certified regulatory program" under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, §§ 21000 et. seq; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251(j)). As a certified regulatory program, the CEC produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an environmental impact report.

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CEC staff would like to consult with you to better understand Native American concerns regarding this project. Please respond to this letter in writing within 30 days if Kern Valley Indian Community would like to request consultation.

Additionally, over the coming months the CEC will hold public meetings on the project to better understand impacts or concerns that may arise. These meetings will provide the public; local, state, and federal agencies; and tribal governments, the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The CEC will issue notices for these meetings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

If you would like to be notified by email whenever a public meeting is scheduled or a document is posted to the project website, you may sign up for the project listserv on the CEC main web page listed below. To review the GESC and find more information about the project, please visit the project webpage: https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/caes/gem-energy-storage-center

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CEC staff welcomes your comments and questions. Please do not hesitate to contact Gabriel Roark, Assistant Tribal Liaison, at (916) 237-2544 or by email at Gabriel.Roark@energy.ca.gov.

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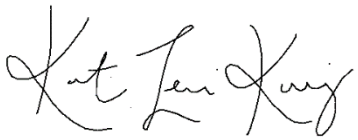

Katrina Leni-Konig
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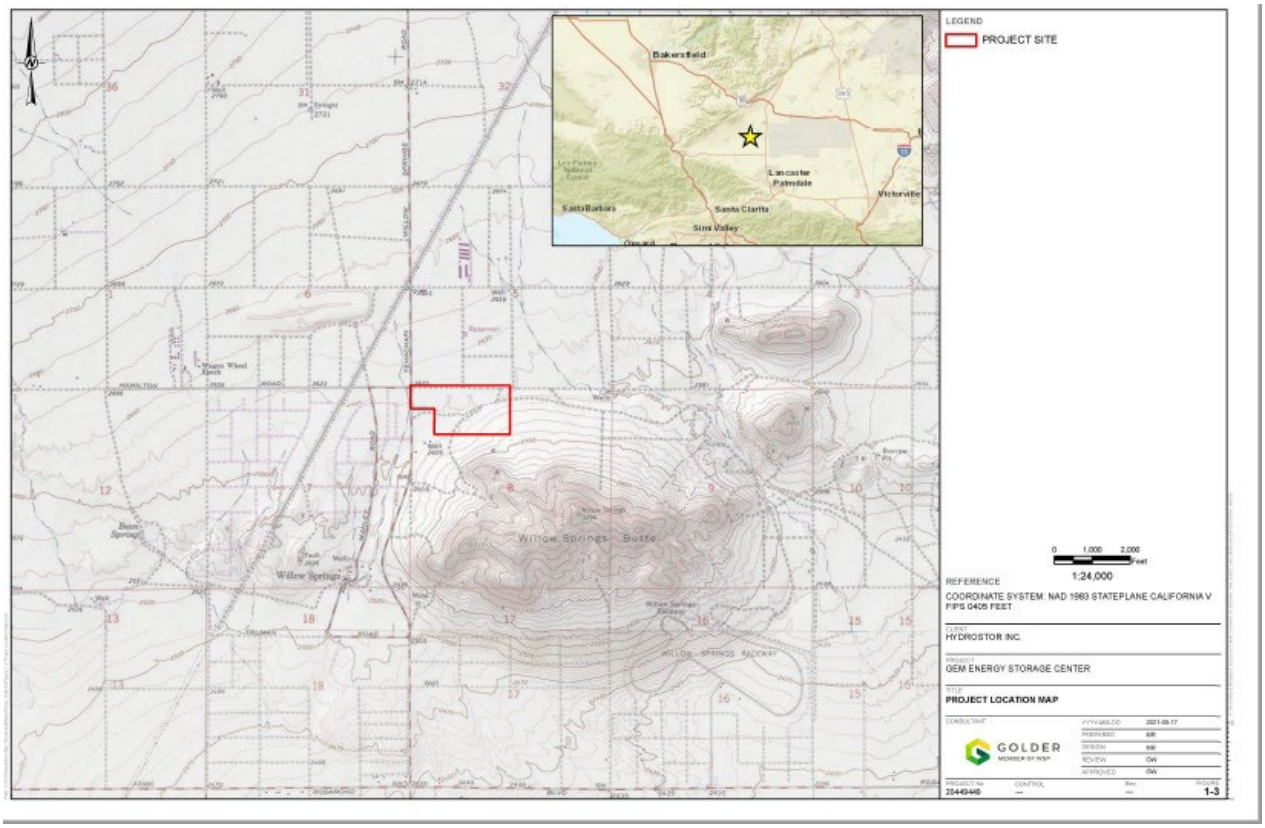

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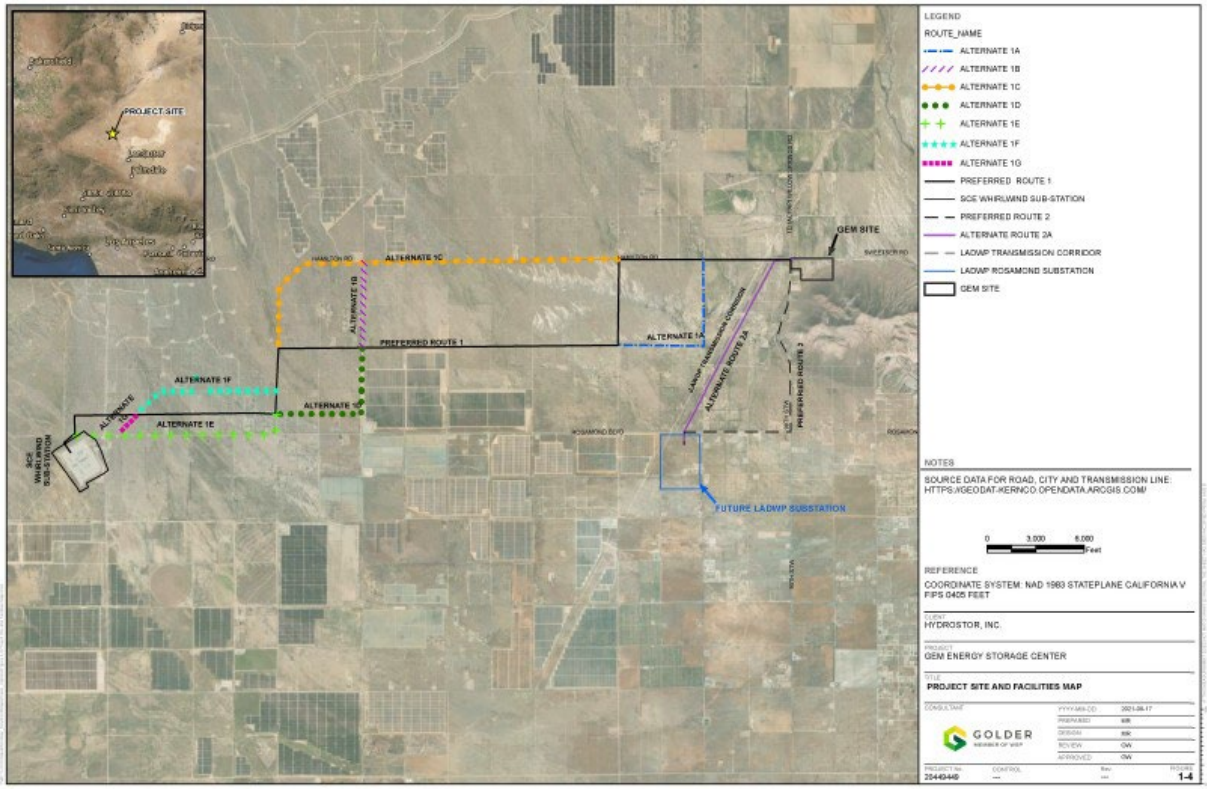

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Julio Quair, Chairperson
Chumash Council of Bakersfield
729 Texas Street
Bakersfield, CA 93307

Dear Honorable Julio Quair:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites Chumash Council of Bakersfield to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, pursuant to our tribal consultation policy.

Background

The CEC has exclusive authority to certify, or license, all thermal power plants of 50 megawatts (MW) and greater and related facilities (that is, facilities dedicated to and essential to the operation of the power plant, such as an electric transmission line) proposed for construction and operation in California. The issuance of a certificate by the CEC is in lieu of any local or state permit and federal permit to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC's facility licensing process carefully examines the public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities. The CEC's licensing process has been certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency as a "certified regulatory program" under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, §§ 21000 et. seq; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251(j)). As a certified regulatory program, the CEC produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an environmental impact report.

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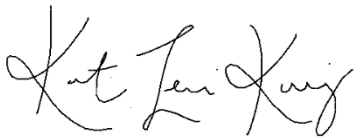

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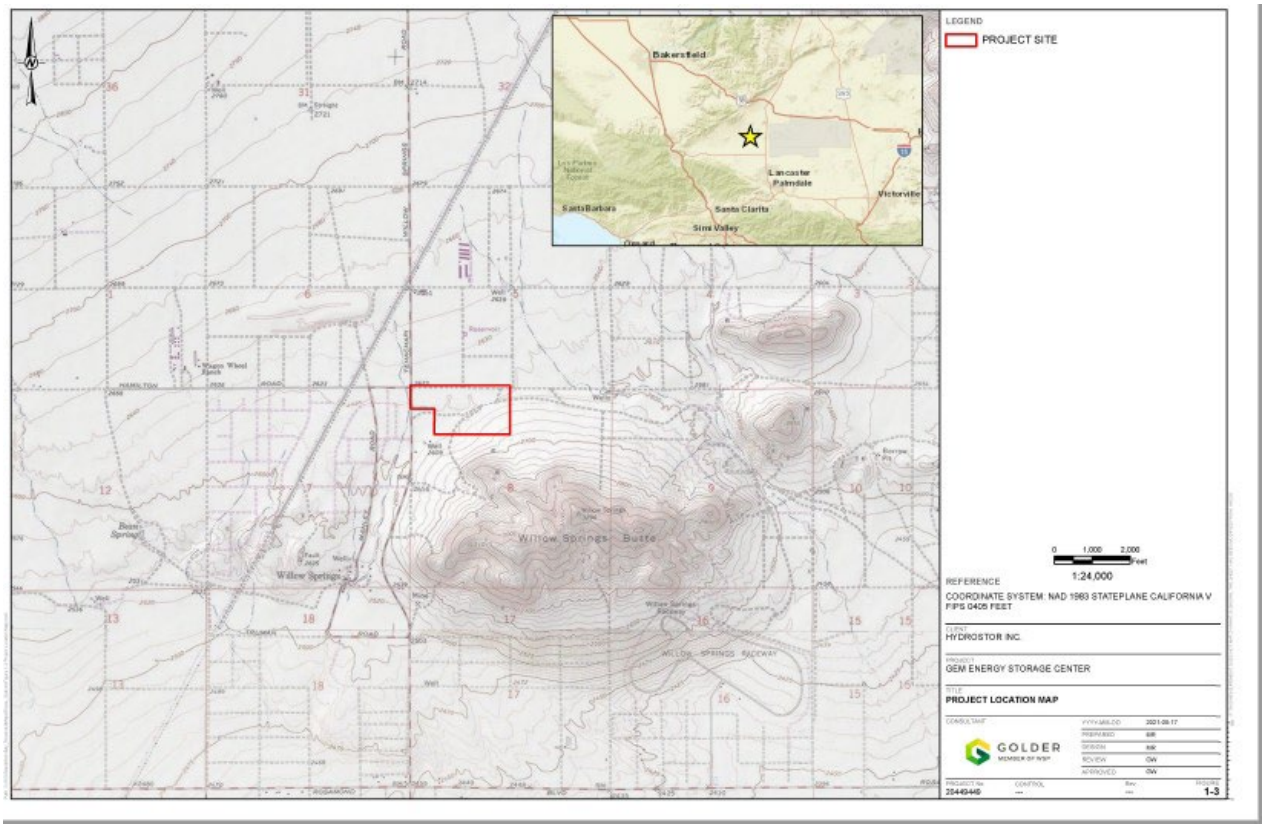

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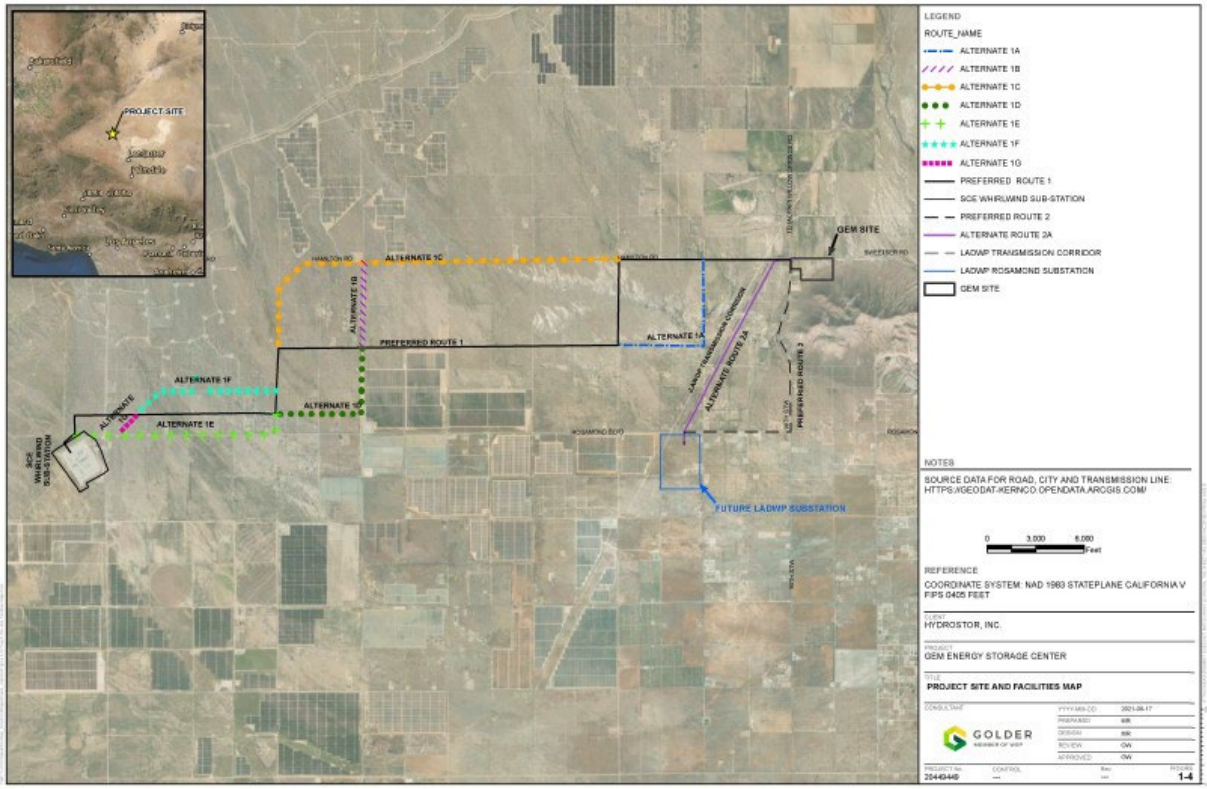

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Kerri Vera, Environmental Department
Tule River Indian Tribe
P. O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

Dear Kerri Vera:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites Tule River Indian Tribe to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, pursuant to our tribal consultation policy.

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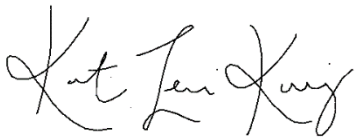

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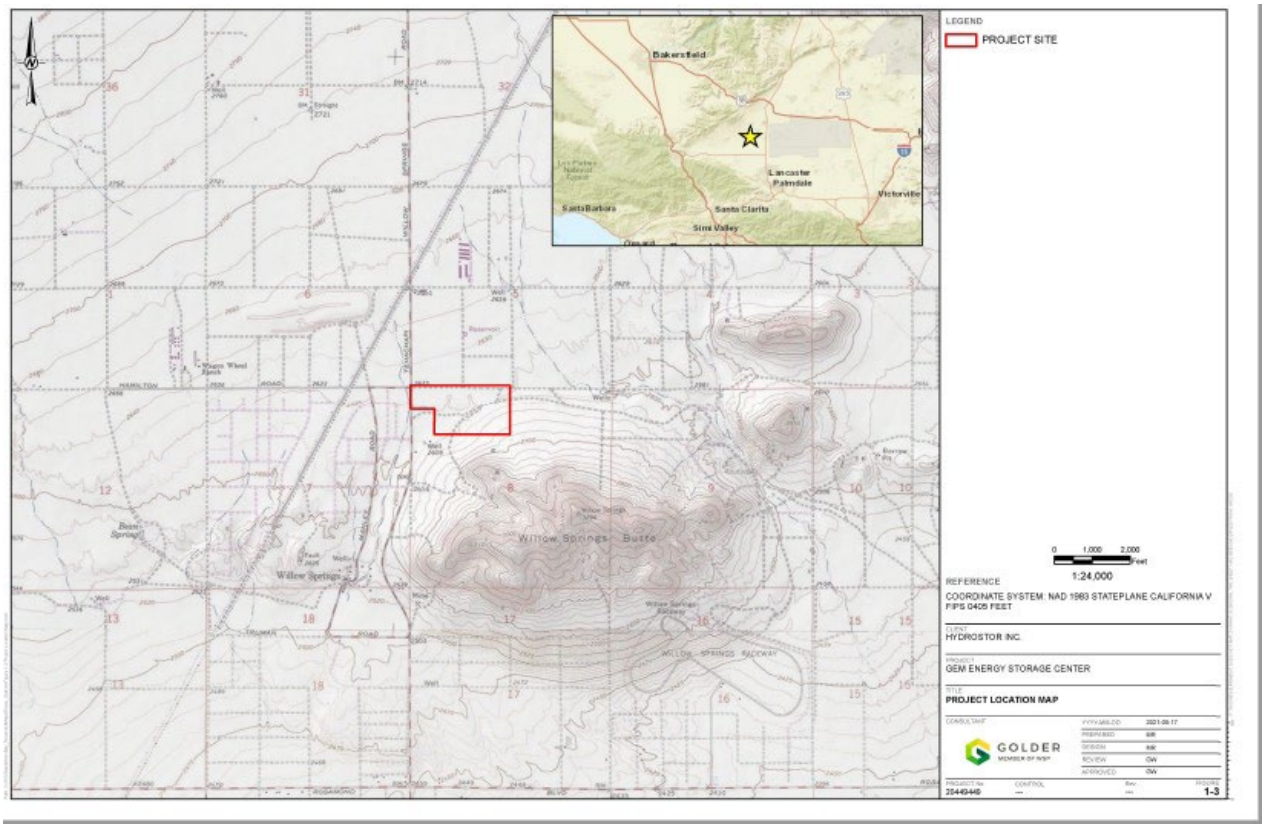

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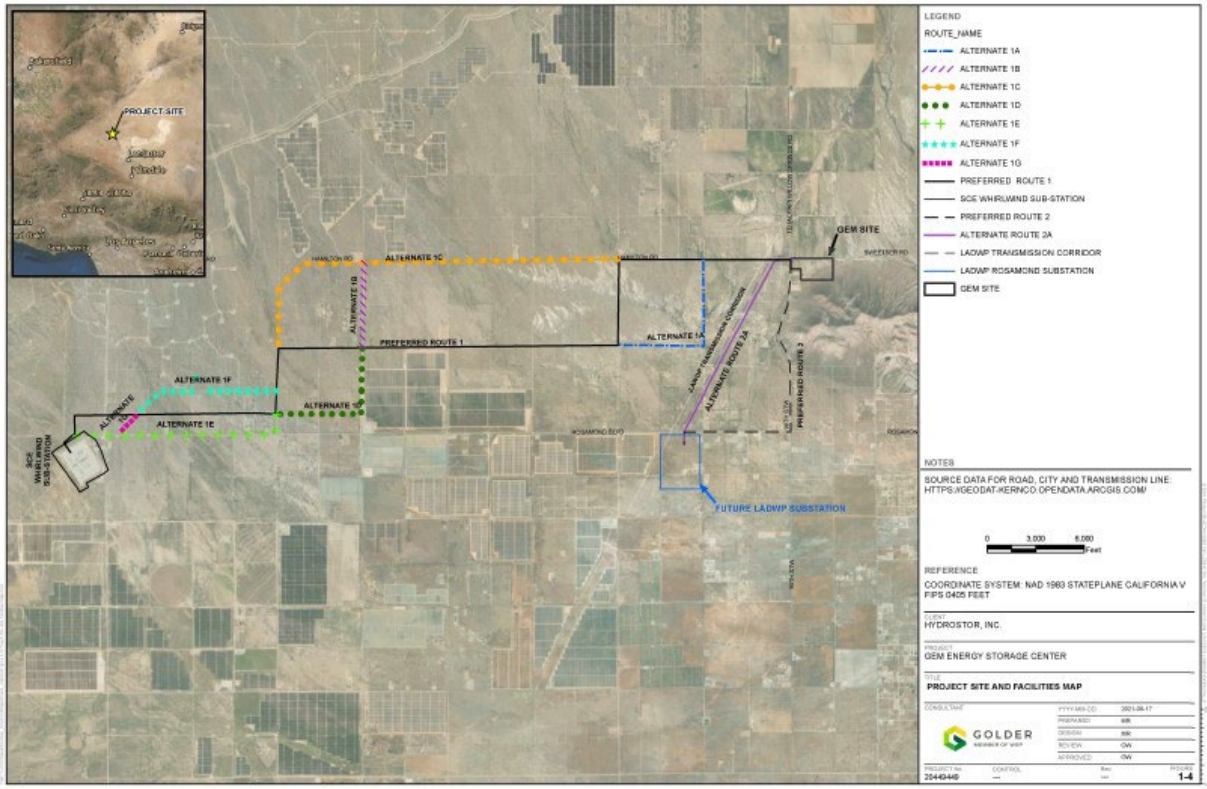

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Mariza Sullivan, Chairperson
Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation
P. O. Box 4464
Santa Barbara, CA 93140

Dear Honorable Mariza Sullivan:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, pursuant to our tribal consultation policy.

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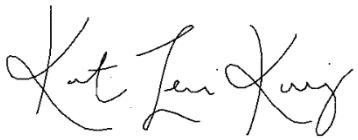

Katrina Leni-Konig
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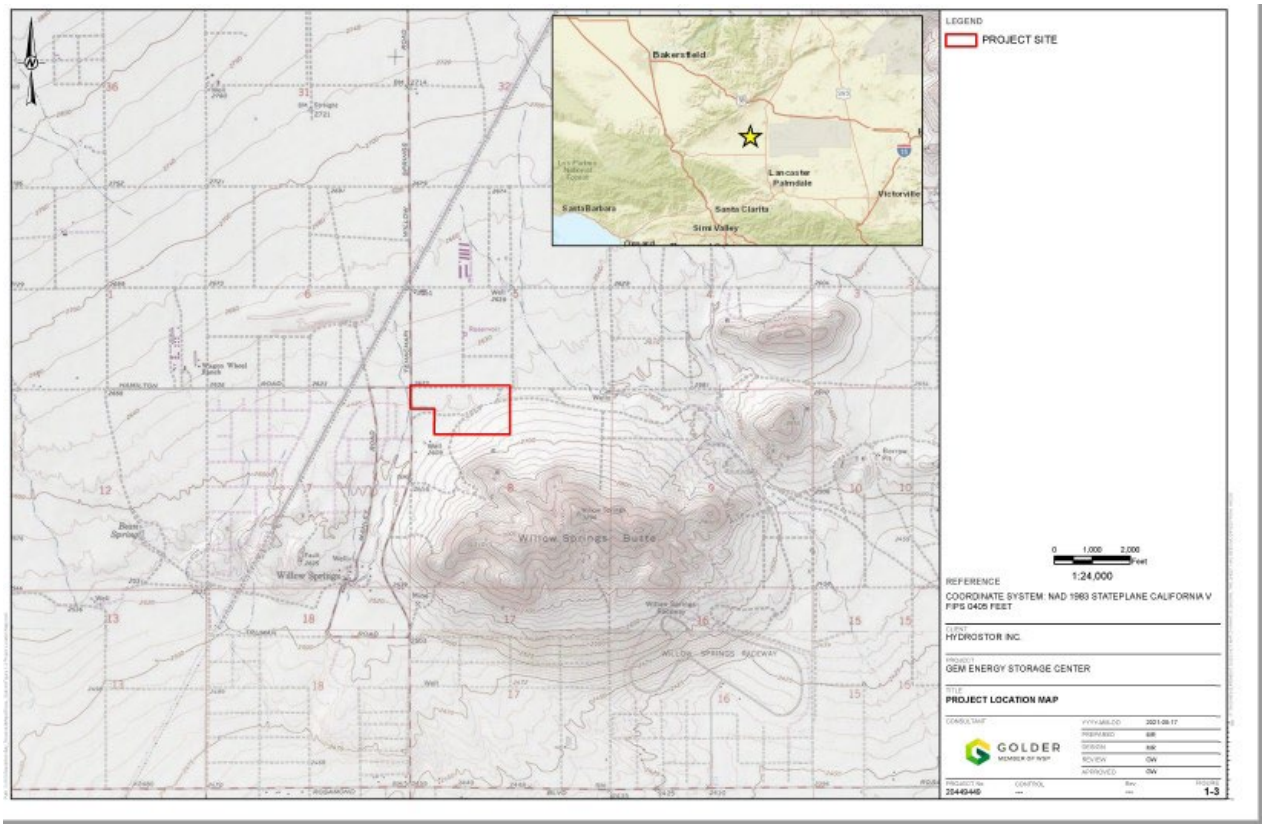

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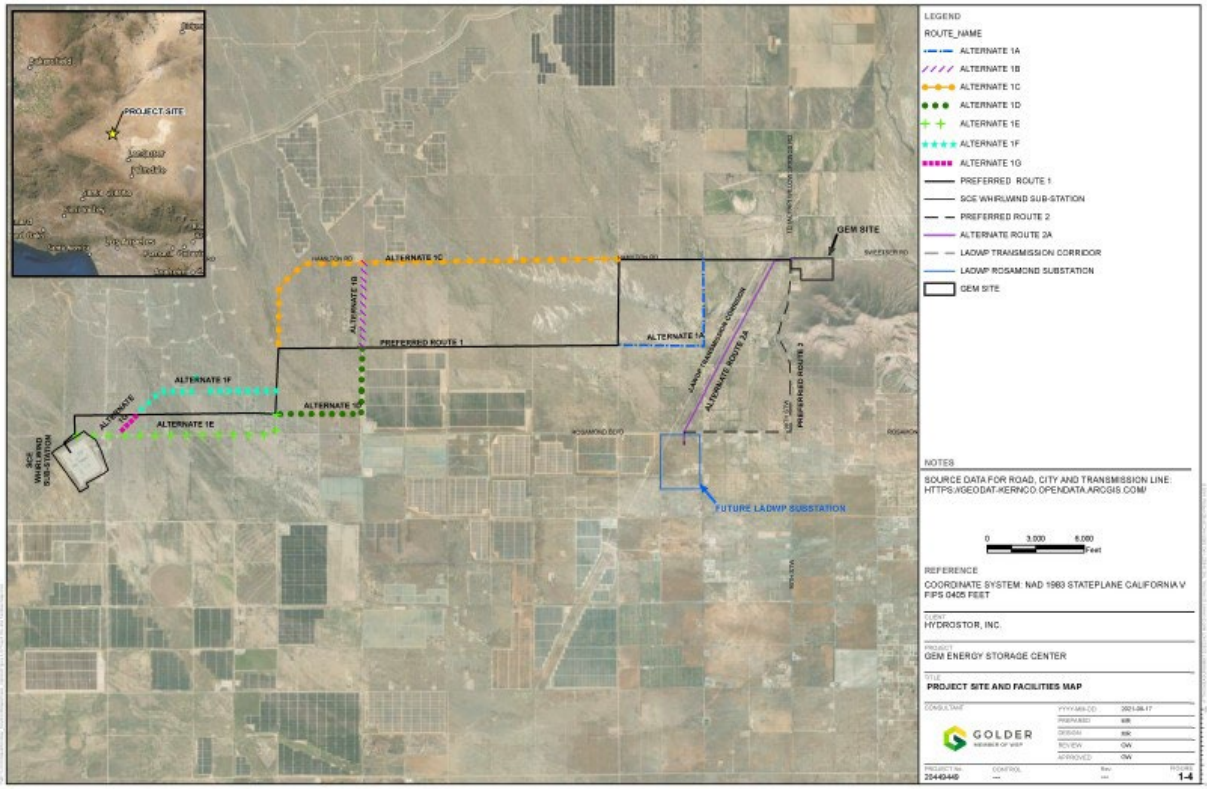

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Neil Peyron, Chairperson
Tule River Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

Dear Honorable Neil Peyron:

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This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, pursuant to our tribal consultation policy.

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The CEC has exclusive authority to certify, or license, all thermal power plants of 50 megawatts (MW) and greater and related facilities (that is, facilities dedicated to and essential to the operation of the power plant, such as an electric transmission line) proposed for construction and operation in California. The issuance of a certificate by the CEC is in lieu of any local or state permit and federal permit to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC's facility licensing process carefully examines the public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities. The CEC's licensing process has been certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency as a "certified regulatory program" under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, §§ 21000 et. seq; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251(j)). As a certified regulatory program, the CEC produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an environmental impact report.

Description

The Gem Energy Storage Center (GESC or project) would be a nominal 500-MW, 4,000 MW-hour (MWh), advanced compressed air energy storage (A-CAES) facility capable of charging and discharging daily. GESC would compress

air into a purpose-built underground cavern, using electricity from the grid, most likely off-peak, excess, or surplus electricity. The heat from the air compression process would be captured and stored in an aboveground thermal storage system. The compressed air would then be stored in the cavern under the pressure of a hydrostatic head created by an onsite, aboveground water reservoir. When electricity is needed by the grid, the compressed air would be released using the hydrostatic head pressure, re-heated using the stored thermal energy, and directed through aboveground turbine-generators to produce electricity. GESC's major equipment would consist of five all-electric air compressor trains, five 100-MW air-driven power turbine generators, heat exchangers, thermal heat storage, an underground compressed air storage cavern, an aboveground water reservoir, miscellaneous aboveground support facilities, and a 10.9-mile transmission line interconnection to the existing Southern California Edison Whirlwind Substation (the application also considers alternative routes to a future Los Angeles Department of Water and Power substation). If approved, the applicant anticipates it would begin construction of GESC in the second quarter of 2023, startup and testing in the second quarter of 2028, and commercial operation in the third quarter of 2028.

CEC staff would like to consult with you to better understand Native American concerns regarding this project. Please respond to this letter in writing within 30 days if Tule River Indian Tribe would like to request consultation.

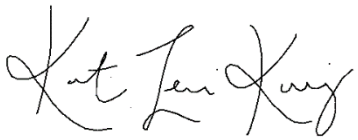
Additionally, over the coming months the CEC will hold public meetings on the project to better understand impacts or concerns that may arise. These meetings will provide the public; local, state, and federal agencies; and tribal governments, the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The CEC will issue notices for these meetings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

If you would like to be notified by email whenever a public meeting is scheduled or a document is posted to the project website, you may sign up for the project listserv on the CEC main web page listed below. To review the GESC and find more information about the project, please visit the project webpage: https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/caes/gem-energy-storage-center

Should you request, CEC staff will arrange for a separate consultation meeting to discuss issues that you may wish to hold in confidence from the public.

CEC staff welcomes your comments and questions. Please do not hesitate to contact Gabriel Roark, Assistant Tribal Liaison, at (916) 237-2544 or by email at Gabriel.Roark@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Katrina Leni-Konig
California Energy Commission Tribal Liaison and Deputy Public Advisor

Enclosure: **Figure 1-1**: Existing Site Conditions, **Figure 1-2**: Architectural Rendering on Gem Storage Center, **Figure 1-3:** Project Area Map, **Figure 1-4:** Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

Figure 1-1: Existing Site Conditions

Figure 1-2: Architectural Rendering on Gem Storage Center

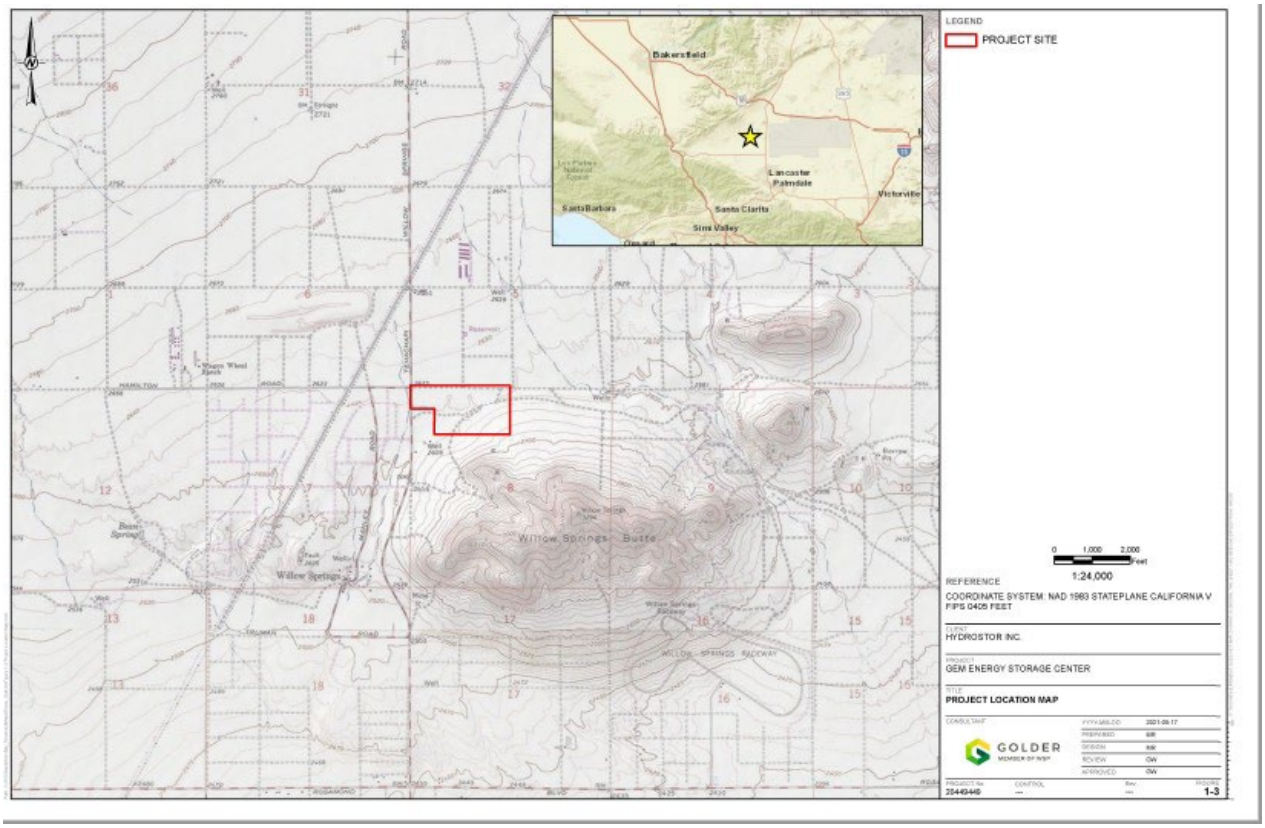


Figure 1-3: Project Area Map

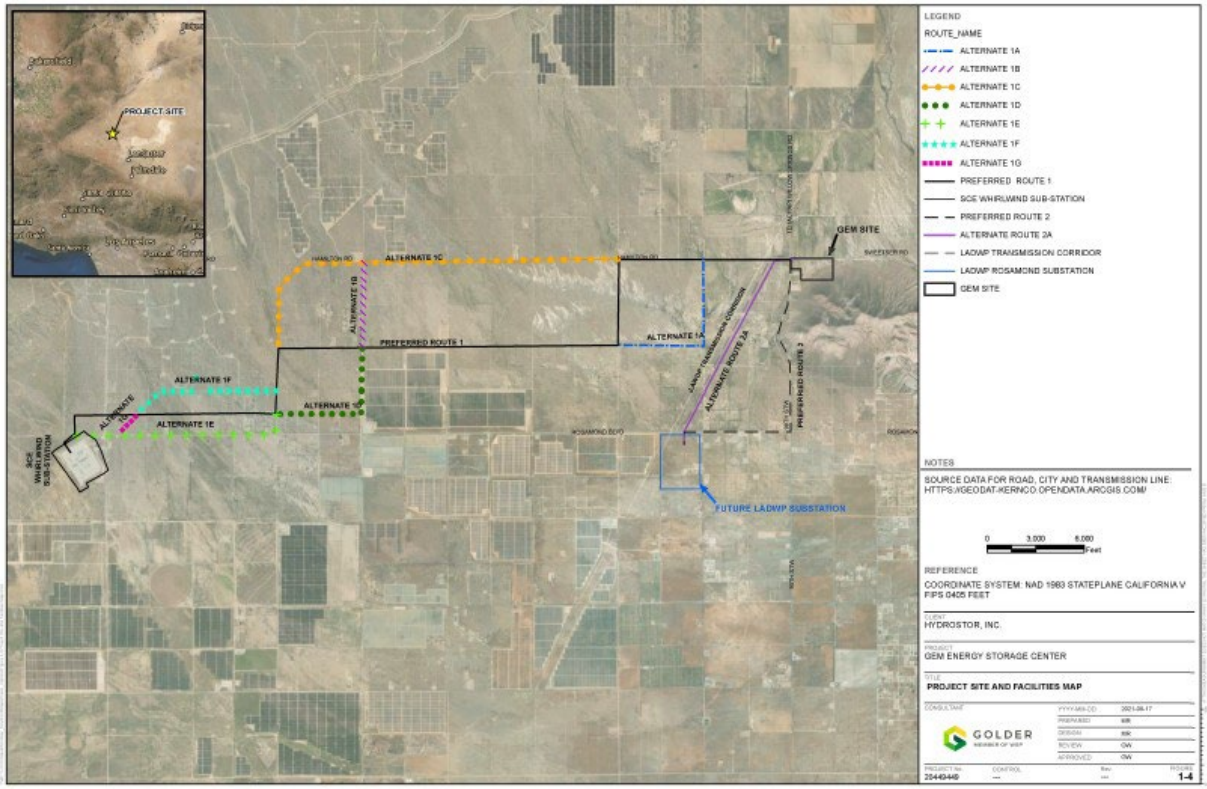


Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Robert Robinson, Chairperson
Kern Valley Indian Community
P.O. Box 1010
Lake Isabella, CA 93283

Dear Honorable Robert Robinson:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites Kern Valley Indian Community to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, pursuant to our tribal consultation policy.

Background

The CEC has exclusive authority to certify, or license, all thermal power plants of 50 megawatts (MW) and greater and related facilities (that is, facilities dedicated to and essential to the operation of the power plant, such as an electric transmission line) proposed for construction and operation in California. The issuance of a certificate by the CEC is in lieu of any local or state permit and federal permit to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC's facility licensing process carefully examines the public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities. The CEC's licensing process has been certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency as a "certified regulatory program" under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, §§ 21000 et. seq; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15251(j)). As a certified regulatory program, the CEC produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an environmental impact report.

Description

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CEC staff would like to consult with you to better understand Native American concerns regarding this project. Please respond to this letter in writing within 30 days if Kern Valley Indian Community would like to request consultation.

Additionally, over the coming months the CEC will hold public meetings on the project to better understand impacts or concerns that may arise. These meetings will provide the public; local, state, and federal agencies; and tribal governments, the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The CEC will issue notices for these meetings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

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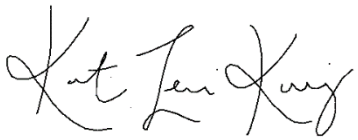
Should you request, CEC staff will arrange for a separate consultation meeting to discuss issues that you may wish to hold in confidence from the public.

CEC staff welcomes your comments and questions. Please do not hesitate to contact Gabriel Roark, Assistant Tribal Liaison, at (916) 237-2544 or by email at Gabriel.Roark@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Katrina Leni-Konig
California Energy Commission Tribal Liaison and Deputy Public Advisor

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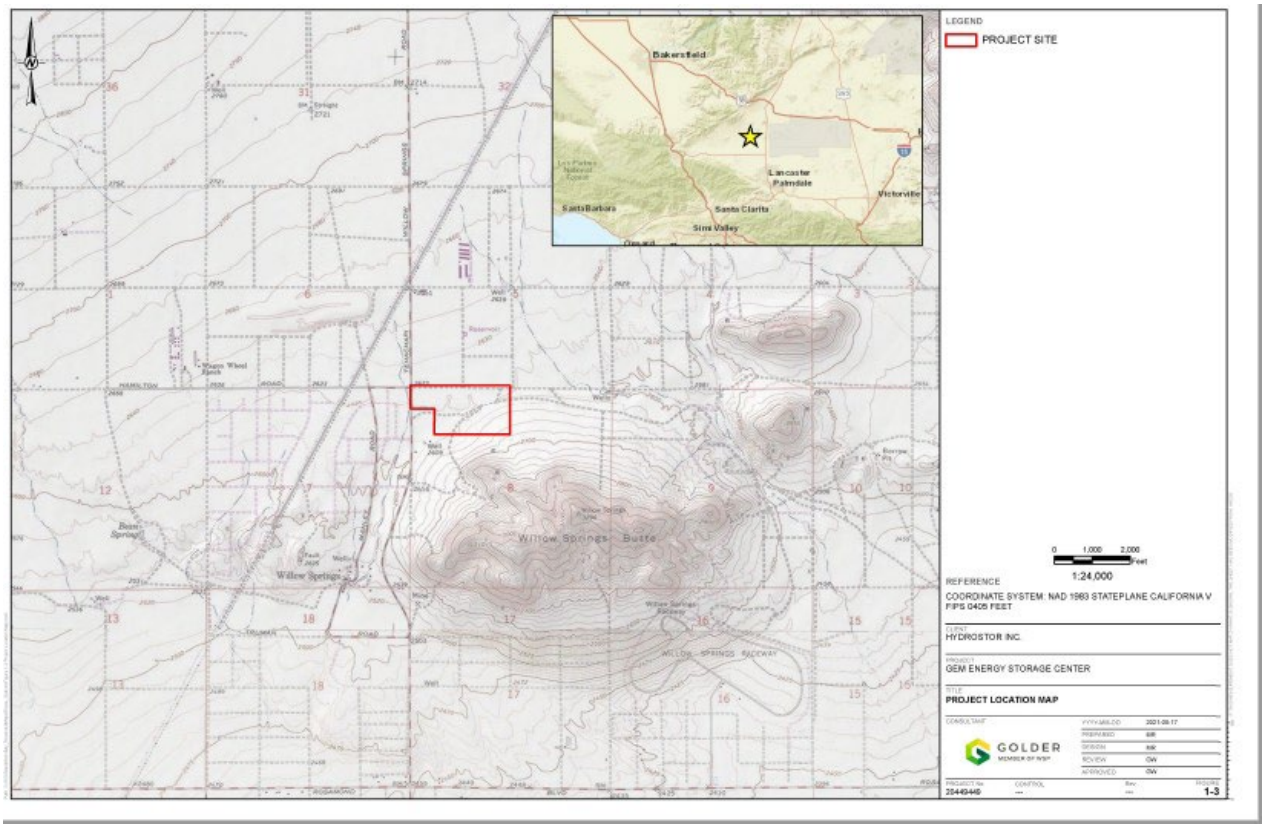

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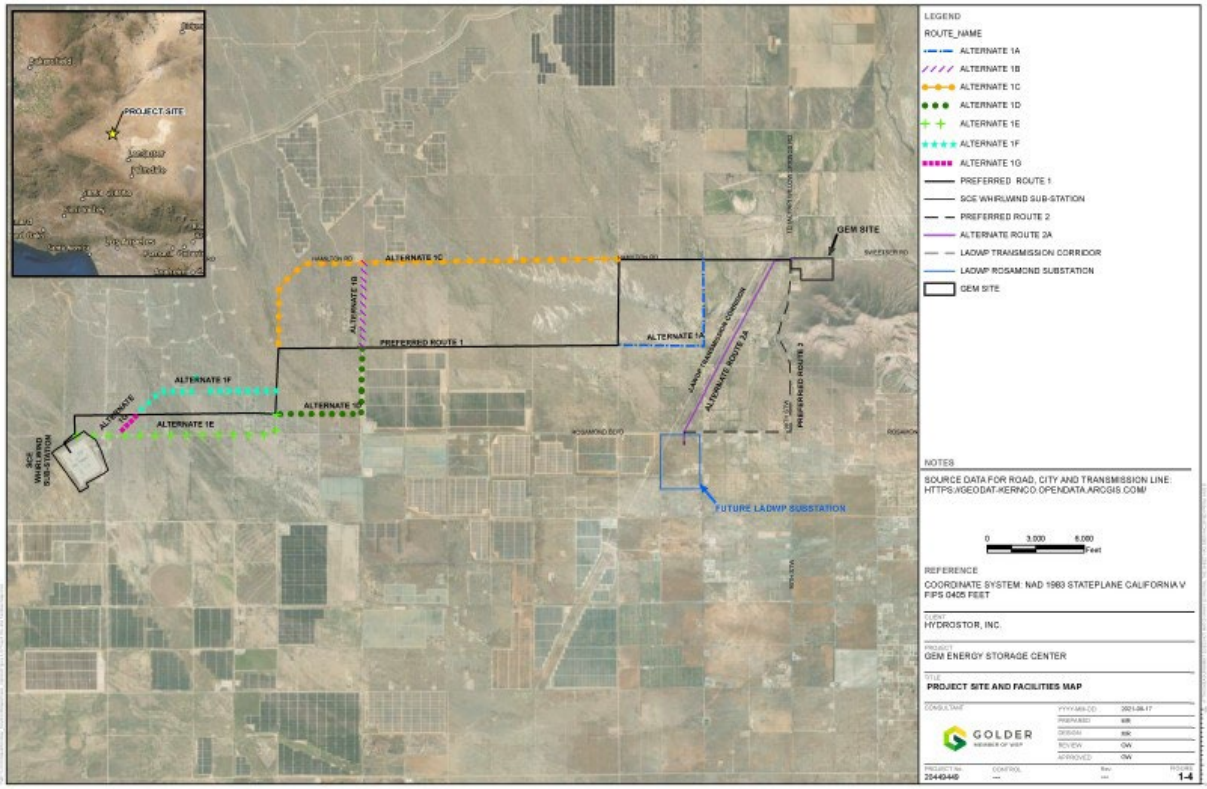

Figure 1-4: Aerial Imagery Showing Entire Project Area

July 18, 2022

Sally Manning, Environmental Director
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley
P. O. Box 700
Big Pine, CA 93513

Dear Sally Manning:

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is responsible for preparing an environmental impact analysis for the Gem Energy Storage Center and invites Big Pine Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley to consult regarding this project.

This letter provides general information concerning the current project and invites you to participate in CEC consultations, pursuant to our tribal consultation policy.

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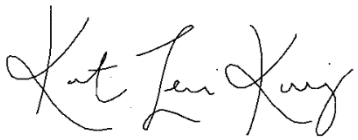

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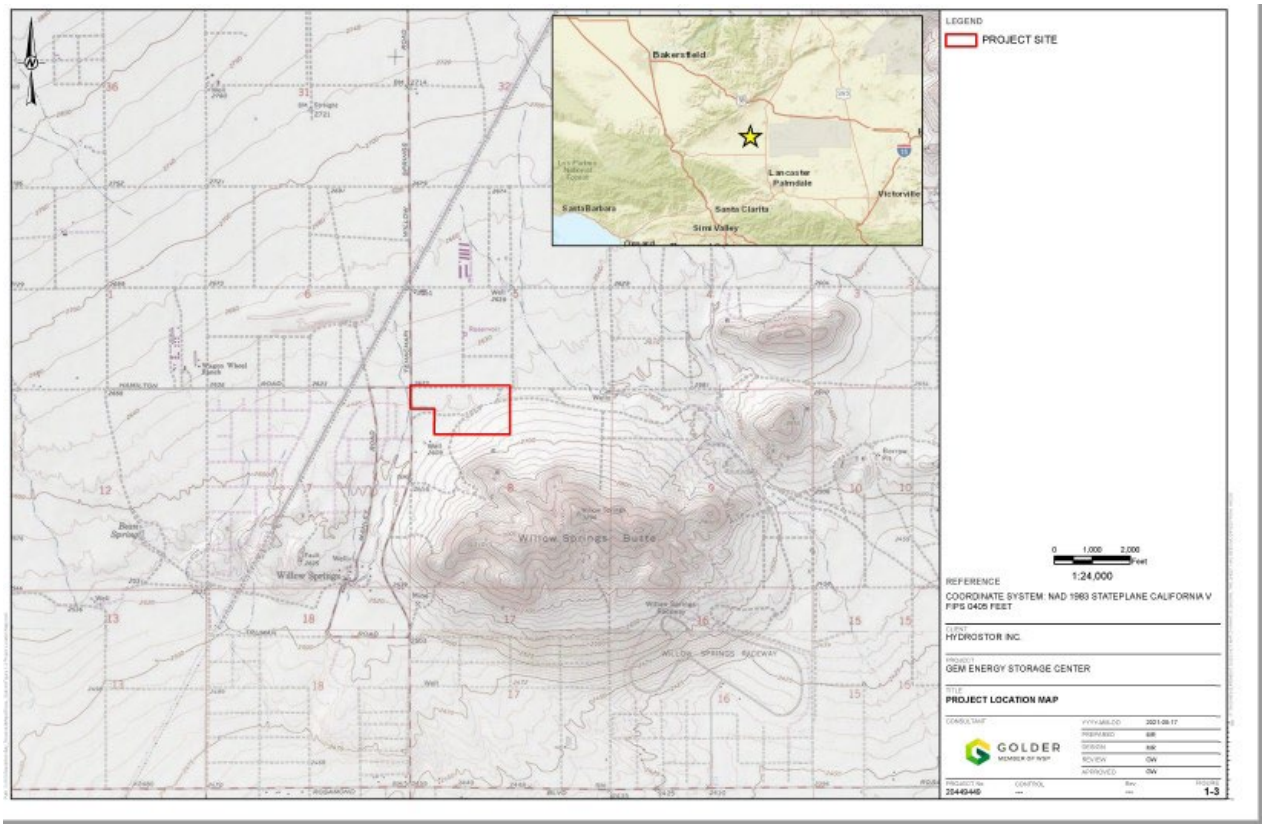

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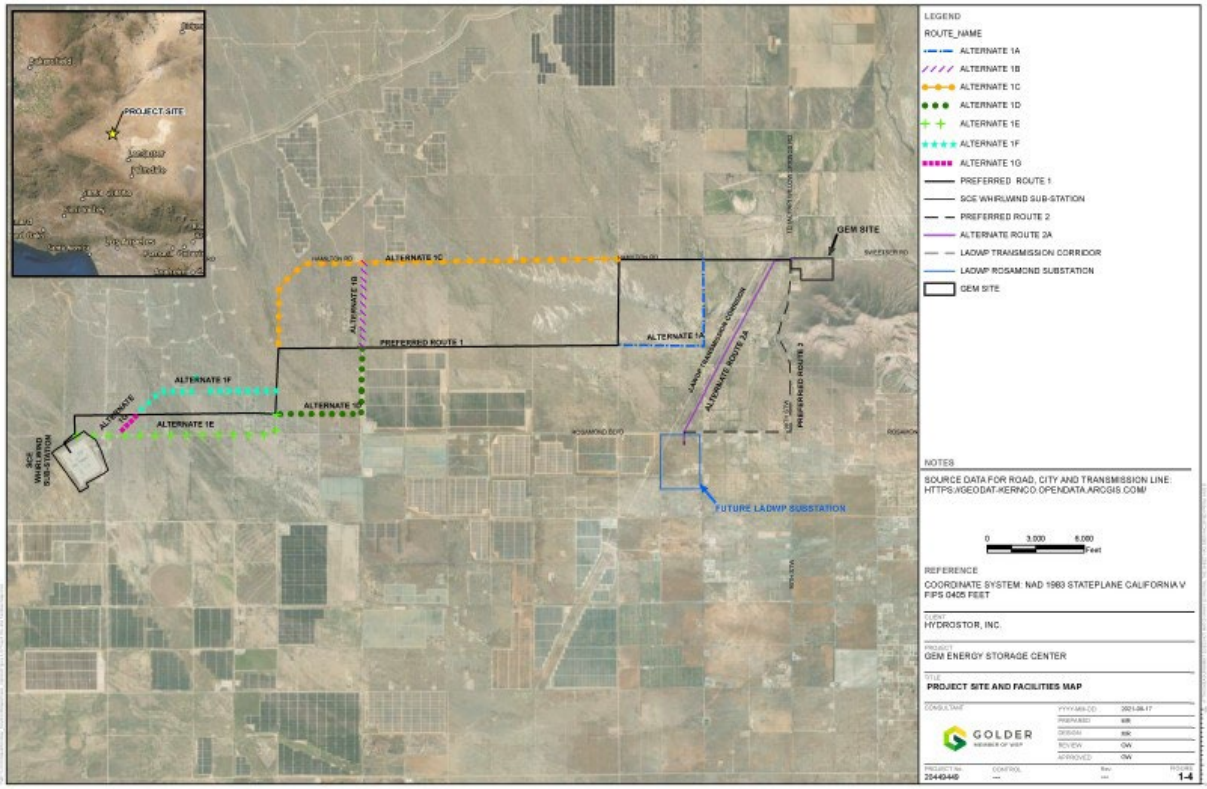

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